

# THE TIMES

30P

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## Selective slaughter likely as confidence plummets and McDonald's drops British beef

# Ministers set to back killing of 4m cattle

By PHILIP WEBSTER, MICHAEL HORNSBY AND CHARLES BREMNER

THE Government is near to deciding to slaughter more than four million cattle in a drastic move to restore confidence in British beef. Killing all animals aged more than two-and-a-half years emerged last night as the option most favoured by ministers as they tackle the crisis caused by the disclosure of possible links between "mad cow" disease and its human form, Creutzfeldt-Jakob Disease. The plan could cost more than £6 billion in compensation but the Government would look for "considerable" assistance with the costs from the European Union. An announcement on a policy of "selective slaughter" is expected within days. Ministers will today consider the latest advice of leading scientists on the safety of feeding beef to children. A statement to the Commons is expected this afternoon from Stephen Dorrell, the Health Secretary. The Government's advisory committee on BSE met over the weekend at the Sunningdale Civil Service college in Berkshire and was to pass its recommendations to Kenneth Calman, the Chief Medical Officer, last night. Ministers will not be surprised if the committee has also recommended a slaughter policy. As one hamburger chain, McDonald's, announced that it had stopped using British beef and another, Burger King, said it was closely monitoring events. Douglas

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Hogg, the Agriculture Minister, disclosed that slaughtering was under consideration to repair confidence which he admitted had been grievously damaged. Mr Hogg said on BBC's *On the Record* that there were advantages in focusing on older cows because there were very few cases of BSE confirmed in cattle under the age of 30 months, and because the number of cattle with the disease which were born after the official ban in 1989 was very limited. It would, he said, be "focusing on the core of the problem." Sources later divulged that the slaughter of older cows was one of three central op-

tions that had confronted the Government. One was the "Doomsday scenario" of killing the entire British herd of 11 million cattle, which would cost £20 billion and has in effect been rejected. The other is the possibility of slaughtering all herds in which BSE has been found, which would mean the killing of hundreds of thousands of healthy young beef cattle. Some farmers were reluctantly coming to the view last night that mass slaughter might be the only way to restore consumer confidence, even though many entirely healthy animals would be destroyed in the process and it could take years to rebuild pedigree breeding stocks. But Ian Gardiner, policy director at the National Farmers' Union, said: "It would be hard to justify destroying animals in herds which have never had a case of BSE." However, experts say it would be one way of getting rid of older dairy cows which are the animals most likely to have eaten contaminated feed. If a policy of selective slaughter is adopted, the animals will probably be killed by lethal injection on the farm. This is the method currently used to kill animals which develop visible symptoms. Nearly 160,000 cattle have been put down and incinerated since the first case was diagnosed in 1986. Mr Hogg said: "I would certainly look to our colleagues in the European Union to provide very substantial assistance through the common agricultural policy." Pressure on embattled beef producers could mount today when European Union officials in Brussels consider a continent-wide ban. British beef has been quarantined by ten EU states. Franz Fischer, the EU's Austrian Farm Commissioner, holds responsibility for a final decision, which will be put to the full Commission on Wednesday. Germany is leading the campaign for a blanket ban. Horst Seehofer, the Bonn Health Minister, said the proposals for limited slaughter were "highly unsatisfactory and not acceptable." Ivan Yates, the Irish Agriculture Minister, said it was time to fence off British beef. "We are supporting an effective trade ban on British beef outside of Britain," he said.



There was a difference at McDonald's yesterday as Big Macs came off the menu

# Fast food chain takes burgers off the menu

By RUSSELL JENKINS

MCDONALD'S this weekend showed the ruthless commercial instinct that has made them the world's most successful hamburger chain — they took Big Macs off the menu. The decision to withdraw hamburgers from the menus of 660 outlets ahead of scientists' recommendations on the safety of British beef wrongfooted rivals, angered meat suppliers and pulled the rug from under the Government. For the first time since the company came to Britain 26 years ago the beef burger has given way to "no beef at all" as McDonald's unique selling point, British beef will be returned to wholesalers and fresh supplies brought in from Holland in time for burgers made "exclusively from non-British beef" to be back on the menu by Thursday. At a series of meetings at the company headquarters in Fircley, north London, executives took the decision to launch a costly exercise to protect their biggest seller against mounting public anxiety over the safety of British beef. McDonald's two million customers, who eat 1.8 million hamburgers a day, were greeted with a choice of chicken, fish or the new vegetarian burger yesterday. The public announcement, which came at 11.30pm on Saturday, was carefully timed to achieve maximum publicity. It is followed up by full-page advertisements in every national newspaper today. Paul Preston, chief executive of McDonald's UK, emphasises that the company has faith in the safety of British beef but insists that it cannot ignore a "growing loss of consumer confidence". He Mr Preston emphasised that his company

would buy British beef once consumer confidence returned. Philip Dorgan, food retail analyst for stockbrokers SGST, said yesterday: "McDonald's has taken a gigantic leap into the unknown. If they had not made it they might have had nobody eating their burgers on Monday, whereas now they are more likely to be back when they are back on sale on Thursday. "It is a sensible position to adopt because so many par-



Preston: "a matter of customer confidence"

ents are now saying to their children 'you are not allowed to eat beef any more'. It is a completely different situation to what happened with the BSE scare a few years ago. This time all bets are off and anything can happen. McDonald's marketing staff, brought in specially to field inquiries yesterday, emphasised that the decision was made without any consideration of lost sales. A straw poll among customers yesterday showed that customers were opting for the alternatives on offer. Speaking on Radio 4's *The World This Weekend*, Mr Preston said: "We are supporting an effective trade ban on British beef outside of Britain," he said. Continued on page 2, col 3

### Breast cancer on the retreat

Breast cancer, the greatest scourge of women in the Western world, is in retreat after three decades during which the toll mounted to record levels. A comparison of death rates in 20 countries has shown that in 16 the steep rise in earlier years has levelled off or started to fall. The UK has recorded the biggest fall. Page 6

### Man 'hunted' backpackers

An Australian court will be told that a man accused of murdering seven backpackers hunted some of his young victims like wild animals. Ivan Milat, 51, faces trial for the serial killing of two British women, three Germans and an Australian couple in bushland in New South Wales. Page 13

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# Lilley tempts small benefit cheats with an amnesty

By DOMINIC KENNEDY, SOCIAL AFFAIRS CORRESPONDENT

BENEFIT cheats are to be offered an amnesty to reduce the £3 billion a year fraud bill. They will be urged to surrender themselves to the Department of Social Security in return for an exemption from prosecution. Advertisements on buses and billboards will ask people to ring a special number if they are worried that they are being paid benefits to which they are not entitled. They will be invited for an interview and given the chance to repay the money. Three pilot schemes are being introduced in London on April 2. If they work, there may be a national amnesty. To counter suggestions that the DSS is going soft, teams of up to 60 investigators will be sent to the areas to put pressure on false claimants. Many people drift into bene-

fit fraud by, for example, failing to admit a change in their income or circumstances. They can then feel too frightened to report themselves to the DSS. Prosecuting in minor cases can be seen as a waste of effort because the courts are inclined to treat them leniently. Some Conservative backbenchers will, nevertheless, be infuriated at benefit cheats being allowed to avoid facing justice. In some cases, the DSS is likely to let people escape prosecution without having to return the money. Fighting benefit fraud is one of the key strategies of Peter Lilley, the Social Security Secretary for reducing the social security budget which will be £90 billion this year — a steep rise from only £56 billion six years ago. The Commons

Social Security Select Committee, on a visit to New Zealand, found that a successful amnesty had saved £10 million, with more than 7,000 benefits cancelled and a further 4,500 reviewed. Frank Field, the Labour MP who chairs the committee, called last month for amnesties to be offered in Britain to all those coming forward to close a fraudulent account. A freephone hotline will be introduced to encourage people to report suspected fraud; suspicious workplaces like minicab offices and building sites will be targeted, and there will be extra home visits to claimants. The amnesty is part of a campaign called "Spotlight On Benefit Cheats" which will begin in Croydon, Haringey and Enfield next week.

# Sinn Fein dashes hopes of ceasefire

By NICHOLAS WATT, IRELAND CORRESPONDENT

MARTIN MCGUINNESS, a leading member of Sinn Fein, indicated last night that there was no prospect of an imminent IRA ceasefire unless Britain gave "absolute guarantees" that it would convene unconditional all-party talks. Speaking at the end of Sinn Fein's conference, he called on London to abandon its plans for elections and its demands that the IRA must disarm. Mr McGuinness said: "Sinn Fein wants Britain to make it quite clear that there are negotiations without preconditions will take place. There is no guarantee that that will secure an IRA ceasefire. But if people like us can be assured, it gives us something to work on." But Mr McGuinness insisted it would be "ridiculous" for him to go to the IRA to call

for another ceasefire in the immediate future. Earlier John Austin-Walker, a left-wing Labour MP, won applause at the conference for attacking John Major's handling of the peace process. The Woolwich MP, who is chairman of the Campaign Group of Labour MPs, praised Sinn Fein leader Gerry Adams and said Mr Major's plan for elections in Northern Ireland showed that the Prime Minister had eaten too much beef. A spokesman for Tony Blair, the Labour leader, said he regarded Mr Austin-Walker's decision to speak at the conference as "foolish". Labour chiefs believe the MP has made a mistake by sharing a platform with Sinn Fein when there has been no renewal of the ceasefire. Republican cheers, page 5

# Woman takes over reins of the Derby

By RICHARD EVANS, RACING CORRESPONDENT

THE future of one of the great events of the social and sporting calendar is to be entrusted to a woman for the first time. Sue Ellen, a businesswoman, has been recruited to revive the flagging fortunes of the Derby, the world's most famous flat race which has been run every year since 1780. Mrs Ellen, who until recently ran Bupa, the private medical company,

which has a £240 million annual turnover, will be confirmed this week as managing director of United Racecourses, which owns Epsom, Sandown and Kempton. The appointment of Mrs Ellen, 47, in a sport dominated by men, was made by Christopher Spence, deputy chairman of Hambleton and a Jockey Club member. Christopher Spence, the new High Sheriff of Berkshire and fellow Jockey Club member, and David Hillyard, managing director of Racecourse Hold-

ings Trust, the Jockey Club-owned subsidiary which bought United Racecourses for £30 million two years ago. The task facing Mrs Ellen is formidable. Heading the priority list will be the future of the Derby, whose popularity has declined significantly. The mile-and-a-half classic was moved last year from its traditional spot on the first Wednesday in June to a Saturday in an attempt to increase public interest.



Ellen: formidable task



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NEWS IN BRIEF

### Change in rape cases promised by Labour

Rape victims would be spared the ordeal of being questioned in court about their previous sexual history under Labour proposals to change sentencing published today.

Lawyers would be barred from trying to blacken a victim's character by asking about former partners and would be allowed only to ask about the attack that was the subject of the trial.

The move follows widespread concern at the manner in which some rape victims have been treated in the witness box. Labour believes that hostile questioning may be one reason for the decline in the conviction rate in rape cases.

### Gun tests urged

Psychological profiling of all gun licence applicants is among measures to be discussed this week at the annual conference of the police superintendents' association. Currently only an informal character reference is required. The officers also want gun club members to be forced to leave weapons at clubs. They hope Lord Cullen, who is investigating the Duhalane massacre, will endorse the proposals.

### Height of winter

Old people in West Yorkshire have had to depend on their postcodes for cold weather payments of £8.50 a week. Two weather stations only 13 miles apart, one of which is nearly 700ft higher than the other, have recorded such different temperatures that pensioners in the Leeds and Wakefield postcode areas have received one payment, while those with a Bradford postcode have had six during the same period.

### Royal trademark

The Prince of Wales has registered "Highgrove" as a trademark to protect sales of royal products including marmalade, table mats and fudge. A range of 20 items is to go on sale from today bearing the logo of the new brand which is owned after the Prince's Gloucestershire estate. He cannot use his own crest for commercial purposes, so the Highgrove logo is a single gold feather from a 1911 design.

### Suspect guarded

A man aged 29 was under police guard in hospital last night suspected of murder after a young couple were found stabbed to death at a house in West Molesey, Surrey, on Saturday night. The emergency services had forced entry to the house in response to a call from neighbours who had reported a disturbance. Michelle Lander, 34, and Gary Stephenson, 23, were pronounced dead at the scene.

### Book stores

Village shops may soon branch out into offering a library service after the success of a pilot scheme in which four stores in Norfolk doubled as libraries. John Creber, an assistant director of Norfolk's library service, said: "We've found it's ideal for communities with a population over 1,200 but for smaller villages the mobile library is a better bet." Shopkeepers taking part receive training in librarianship.

# Major seeks Clarke backing on EMU referendum pledge

BY PHILIP WEBSTER  
POLITICAL EDITOR

JOHN MAJOR will meet Kenneth Clarke this week in an attempt to secure the Chancellor's backing for an early pledge that the Government would hold a referendum before joining a European single currency.

Amid signs that Mr Clarke's misgivings over a referendum have stronger support within the Cabinet than so far recognised, the Prime Minister will try to persuade him of the electoral advantages of making a commitment now to consulting the people if a future government decides the terms are right.

Ministers believe Mr Clarke would go along with a referendum only if Mr Major also made it plain that the Cabinet of the day would be bound by collective responsibility to support entry to a single currency in the public campaign, and if Mr Major insisted that granting a referendum now would not lead to similar plebiscites on other European issues, as some Euro-sceptics want.

Although there is believed to be a Cabinet majority in favour of a referendum pledge, several senior figures, including Michael Heseltine, Sir Patrick Mayhew, Stephen Dorrell and Sir George Young, share Mr Clarke's reservations. Another group

which is believed to include Ian Lang, the Board of Trade President, are prepared to go along with a referendum, but would have preferred the issue to have been packed at a later stage. Michael Portillo, a long-time opponent of a referendum, will go along with the judgment of the majority.

Some have criticised Mr Major for bowing to pressure from Conservative Central Office to bring forward the Cabinet discussion. They would have preferred to have left the issue open.

The Labour leadership, which is also expected to pledge a referendum, has decided against an early announcement even though a

rough survey of MPs have shown a big majority in favour of a commitment.

Most of Mr Clarke's Cabinet colleagues believe it unlikely that he would resign over the issue. But Mr Major, Malcolm Rifkind, the Foreign Secretary, and Brian Mawhinney, the party chairman, who strongly support the idea of a pledge now, will want to be sure of that before any announcement is made.

Mr Heseltine has been heading the efforts to keep Mr Clarke on board and will continue to do so when Mr Rifkind's paper on the detailed implications of a referendum is circulated this week. Mr Clarke, who has been in South

## THIS WEEK IN THE TIMES

### TUESDAY

**TESTPLAN**  
In our parent's guide to school tests: English for 11-year-olds  
**PLUS:**  
Play to win in our cash-prize Interactive Team Football game

### WEDNESDAY

**FASHION**  
Real women wear Donna Karan  
**PLUS:**  
Win the CD-Rom Encyclopaedia Britannica, worth £750, in Interface

### THURSDAY

**FILM OF THE WEEK**  
Geoff Brown on *Dead Man Walking*  
**PLUS:**  
How to enter The Times Screenwriting Competition

### FRIDAY

**POP**  
David Sinden meets country rock stars Stevie Nicks and Dolly Parton  
**PLUS:**  
The best of the week

### SATURDAY

**FEMME FATALE**  
Kate Muir meets Emmanuelle Béart, in the Magazine  
**PLUS:**  
Weekend, Car 96, 1015 for young Times readers and Vision, the 7-day TV and radio guide

EVERY DAY THIS WEEK: COLLECT TOKENS FOR FREE CHILDREN'S TICKETS TO ALTON TOWERS

## Universities put teamwork skills on wanted list

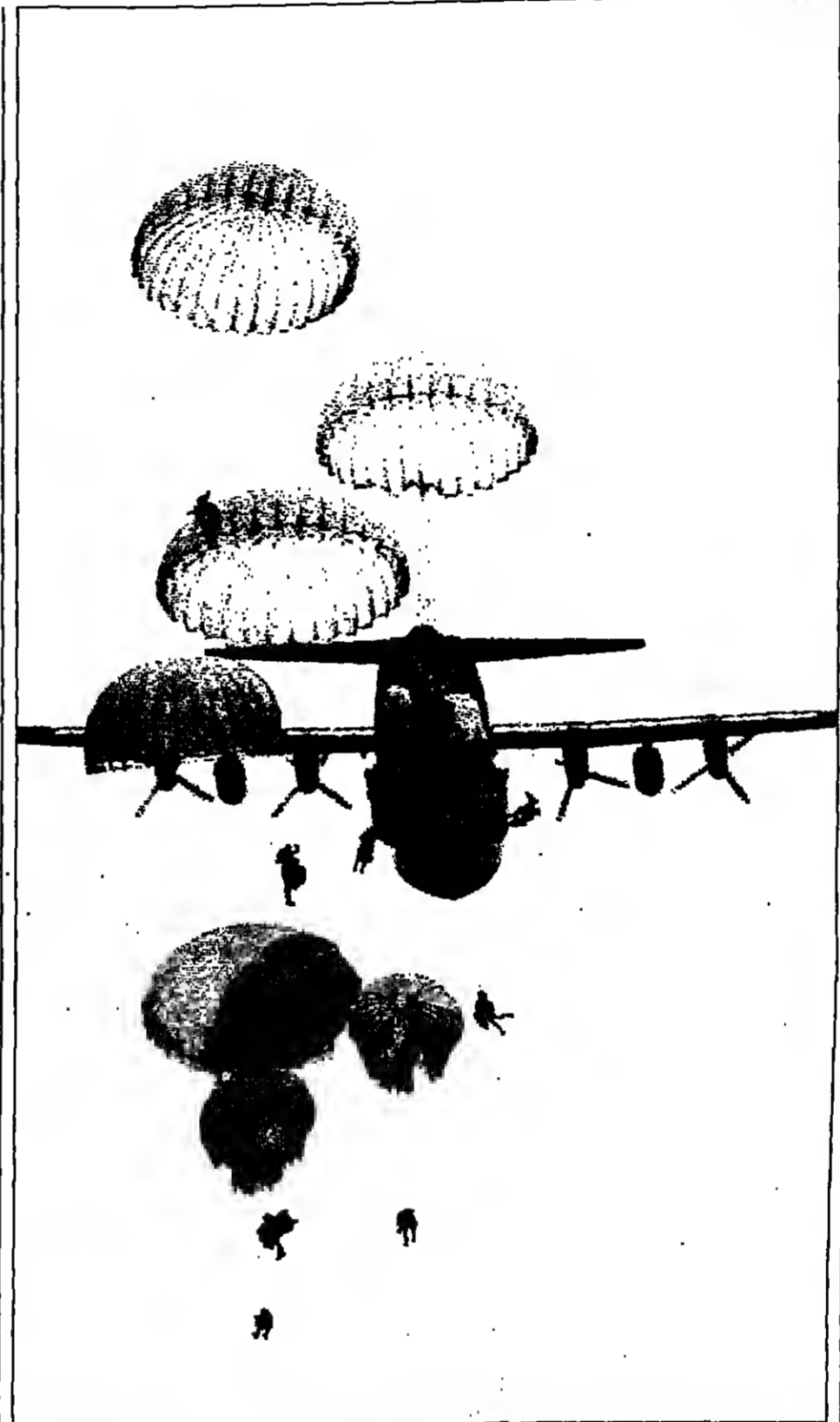
BY DAVID CHARTER, EDUCATION CORRESPONDENT

SKILLS in teamwork and communications are to become requirements for university entry under plans to reform A levels. The Government's wide-ranging review of qualifications will recommend this week that numeracy, computers and problem solving should be studied by every sixth-former.

In response, Ucas, the Universities and Colleges Admissions Service, is planning to allocate points to core skills so they can be used alongside A levels as a passport to higher education. The points will also be used to compile a new generation of league tables, intended to show better the all-round performance of schools as well as pupils.

Core skills are already a requirement in the vocational alternative to A level, the advanced GNVQ. They are assessed by the classroom teacher during the student's course and recorded in a separate log book. For example, to complete the core skill in communication, students have to record group discussions they took part in and show how they made a positive contribution.

Employers have led the call for core skills to be included in



Members of the Army's 5th Airborne Brigade leaping from a Hercules during a parachute drop on Salisbury Plain as part of Exercise Winged Avenger at the weekend

## Students vote today on loans campaign

STUDENTS are poised to abandon their traditional demand for bigger grants in favour of a united campaign with vice-chancellors for changes to the loans system.

Reformers among the National Union of Students believe they have a small majority for change among the 1,800 delegates at their annual conference in Blackpool, which starts today. A vote to commit the union to fighting for bigger grants would wreck plans for an unprecedented rally alongside lecturers and vice-chancellors, calling for a new funding system. Opponents accuse the NUS of doing the Labour Party's bidding by convincing students to make a contribution to their education.

## Fast food chain pulls burgers off the menu

Continued from page 1  
Preston said: "It is not a publicity stunt. This is very sincere. Those two million people, who we serve every day, are telling us that British beef burgers is a concern to them and that they would like to know what McDonald's is doing about it. It is a matter of consumer confidence."

McDonald's said to take some meat from one in every 12 cattle slaughtered, only accounts for 3 per cent of the 900,000 tonnes of beef eaten in this country annually. It spends £50 million a year on the meat. A National Farmers Union spokesman described the boycott as "regrettable".

Meanwhile Egon Ronay, the food writer, urged consumers to rejoice at the removal of "inedible" hamburgers from the menu. Burger King

would do the public a huge favour by striking "Whoppers" and associated beef products off its menu, too.

"In my opinion the only really bad items at these places are the beef burgers," he said. "They are inedible. They just do not taste of beef. But many of the other items they sell are very good and this is a good chance for people to discover them."

Burger King, McDonald's main rival, said it was "monitoring the situation" but hinted that it would soon follow suit. Other chains such as Wimpy, Wendy's and Star-burger had made no immediate decision.

A statement from Burger King said that the company's first priority was the safety of its customers. "We remain confident in the quality and high standards of our products. All the beef in our burgers comes from prime cuts from the forequarter and flank of the animal. We do not use offal or mechanically recovered meat in our products.

"We feel it is prudent to await the information from the Government's scientific advisory committee so that we can make an informed decision."

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High Court to be told Army withheld evidence about death of Parachute Regiment captain

Coroner seeks new inquest on officer shot in exercise



Captain Kelly: he died after being mistaken for a target

A CORONER has taken the rare step of appealing to the High Court to overturn an inquest verdict on a captain in The Parachute Regiment who was shot during a training exercise. Potentially crucial information relating to the death of Captain Christopher Kelly, 26, was not submitted by the Army to the inquest at Southwark Crown Court in January 1995. Three verbal warnings from a major who had taken part in the training exercise in Kenya, about the danger of a "serious accident", were not made known to the coroner. The final warning was only eight days before the acci-

dent, which was two years ago today. The captain, who was educated at Cambridge, suffered fatal gunshot wounds at Archers Post, Kenya, on March 25, 1994. He died five weeks later. Captain Kelly, who had become engaged a month earlier, had mistakenly positioned his 11-man anti-tank platoon in the line of fire of advancing troops and a private mistook his silhouette for a wood-en target. His parents, who have campaigned unsuccessfully for the publication of the Army's board of inquiry into the accident, are suing the Ministry of Defence for negligence. The major, who was back in Britain when the accident hap-

pened, was interviewed by the Army's special investigation branch about Captain Kelly's death. He wrote a report in which he reiterated his warnings of the risk of a serious accident. The report, and his verbal warnings, were not made known to Sir Montague Levine, the Southwark Coroner, who conducted the inquest. They will form the basis of a new inquest if the High Court accepts the application from Sir Montague to quash the original verdict of accidental death. His parents, Denis and Suzanne Kelly, have formally served notice of their intention to sue the Ministry of Defence for damages for alleged negligence. The Royal

British Legion, which has been advising the family of Captain Kelly, was made aware of the major's warnings and report last year. The details were passed to the coroner who referred the information to Sir Nicholas Lyell, the Attorney-General. He has given the coroner leave to appeal to the High Court to quash the inquest verdict and set up a new hearing. A hearing has now been scheduled for May. Mrs Kelly, who lives in Crowthorne, Berkshire, a short distance from Sandhurst staff college where her son trained, said yesterday: "My son was totally committed to the Army. He was loyal to the end. We have been told

that he had a great future ahead of him. But what do these lads get in return? The regiment was marvellous after his death but the Ministry of Defence is blocking us at every turn. They even told us not to bother attending the inquest because it was only a formality. It was only the intervention of the coroner which ensured I was present. I was astonished to see how many legal advisers the Army had assembled for a supposedly routine formality." The inquest lasted six days and the jury returned a verdict by a 7-2 majority. The Ministry of Defence has held a board of inquiry but its conclusions have not been published. Mrs Kelly said: "We have

spent two years trying to find out about the inquiry but there is always some excuse. At times you feel like giving up but the Royal British Legion has been a tremendous support to us. Without it we might simply have given up. If it had not been for the fact that my son was an officer we might have been treated even worse." After the inquest Sir Montague called for a review to ensure that commanders in any live firing exercise should be aware that every section was in its correct position. He said there should also be a review of methods of taping all radio messages passed between different units. The evidence, he said, "appears to bristle with conflicts and doubts".

Science teacher takes gifts and advice to her adopted tribe

By Carol Midgley

LYNNE SYMONDS was last week demonstrating the mild oxidation of ethanol to pupils at the independent girls' school in Norfolk where she teaches science. In a few days' time she will be playing to a very different audience as she is inaugurated as the new chief of a tribe in Ghana.



Eight of Boreh

Mrs Symonds, 42, whose husband is a pig farmer, sets off at the weekend to become third in command of the Mamprusi tribe, which traditionally gives her the power to mete out the death sentence. Leaders in the village of Wulugu decided to give her the title Mamprugpuidinaba — although she will be known as Madame Lynne — after she visited their school and organised an appeal in Britain for textbooks. Its success enabled a library to be set up. Mrs Symonds should now be saving her hair and nail clippings to be buried with her after death, but yesterday she was more concerned with what traditional English gifts to take for the villagers. "I thought an inscribed pewter tankard would be nice for the Nayliri, the paramount

chief, and some T-shirts for some of the women and children," she said. "My husband Roger has collected some footballs for the boys and I will take over some books about Norfolk." Mrs Symonds, who has daughters aged 19 and 24, and her husband will fly to Accra on Sunday and make the 473-mile journey by car to Wulugu, one of the most under-developed villages in Ghana. Throughout the four-hour chief-making ceremony she will sit on a throne of animal skins dressed in tribal robes and hold a walking stick which is linked to the health and success of the chief. She will then be empowered to settle disputes between her subjects in 13 villages and offer

advice on divorce, although she is sure her opinion will be sought only on education. "It all began three years ago when I was at an education conference in Tokyo. I got talking to Karimu Nachina, the headmaster of the school at Wulugu, and he asked me how I coped when one of my pupils died. "I was a bit shocked and explained that our pupils didn't die. It turned out that one of his 16-year-old girls had become very ill after an abortion which went wrong and this was not uncommon." Mrs Symonds learnt that facilities were very poor. Girls whose families lived in villages miles from the school were forced to board with locals, which often led to abuse. She began the books appeal and set about trying to forge links between schools in Britain and Ghana and is passionate about developing science education. She is also helping to raise money to build a boarding house for the 80 girl pupils so they can sleep in safety. So far £5,000 has been raised. Partly as a result of the library, which is stocked with Shakespeare plays and science



Lynne Symonds taking a sixth form chemistry class at Hethersett Old Hall with, left to right, Sarah Cowey, Khaleeda Siraj and Emma Scott

textbooks, five Wulugu students have gained entrance to university. "I expect my main role will be to advise local women, particularly on education development issues," she said. "Education is a major step to putting right a lot of Third World problems. Women need

to be able to read the instructions on a seed packet or box of contraceptives. Many women sell food for a living but if they cannot read or write they can be taken advantage of." However, she added, the benefits were not just one way. "The girls at my school, Old Hall, are learning so much

about a completely different culture. We have started letter exchange schemes which I am hoping other schools in Britain will join in too." She added: "It doesn't involve money or take much time and is really just about the pupils writing letters. They get a wider view of the

world and wonderful insight into another culture." Mrs Symonds, who will spend 12 days in Ghana before returning to her school and home in Hethersett, expects to be able to visit her tribe only twice a year as flights to Accra cost more than £500, even with a charity fare discount. Most

of her advice will be transmitted by letter. While in Wulugu she will eat rice, sweet potatoes, eggs and guinea fowl. During her last visit the governor of the school gave her a goat as a gift. "The next time I saw it was when we had liver for breakfast the next day," she said.

Flap over cat could be settled by DNA

A COUPLE who went to court to have DNA tests on a Burmese cat claimed yesterday that the results prove it was their missing pet. John and June Bell said they now hoped Jim and Marion Somers would hand him over. The Bells, from Inverkip near Greenock, lost their pet, called Jack, in April 1994. They went to court at the end of last year convinced they had tracked him down to Glencairn, near Perth, but the Somers — who call the cat Clyde — disputed it was Jack. A sheriff finally decided that DNA tests should be carried out and blood was taken from the cat to compare with samples from Jack's sister and father. Mrs Bell, who runs dog kennels with her husband, said yesterday: "We have got the results and it is definitely Jack. I am delighted. I have known all along." The Bells expect the matter will return to Perth Sheriff Court to be concluded. The Somers were not available for comment.

Woman to sue after elephant's log trick

LONDON ZOO is being sued by a woman who claims an elephant hurled a branch that struck her on the head. Fatma Huseyin, 24, of Palmers Green, north London, was visiting the zoo with her boyfriend when the alleged incident happened. Ibrahim Sabri, 33, also from Palmers Green, said: "I had to soak up the blood with a packet of cigarette papers. The first aid post was closed for some reason." Ms Huseyin was taken by taxi to the University College Hospital casualty department where she needed three stitches. Since then she says she has suffered from headaches and sickness. Paul Cairnschi, her solicitor, said: "Fortunately the stitches are above her hairline. We believe that the log should not have been in the enclosure in the first place and that patrons should not be put at risk like this." The zoo refused to get an ambulance for Fatma because she was not unconscious, and then reluctantly



Huseyin: had stitches

agreed to pay for a taxi to take her to hospital." A spokesman for London Zoo said that the incident was being investigated internally. She said: "London Zoo can confirm that a member of the public received medical attention from a qualified first aid certificate holder following an incident in the elephant house." "London Zoo policy states that if a visitor loses consciousness, an ambulance is called automatically and immediately. The first aider believed the visitor would need stitches on her forehead and therefore organised a taxi to take her to hospital. On departure, the visitor asked for her thanks to be transmitted to the duty manager and other staff."

Tribesmen prepare to meet lamb of God

A STUFFED lamb is to be flown 10,000 miles from Nottingham to Papua New Guinea because members of a remote tribe and their children want to see one for the first time. The tribe made the bizarre request after reading about lambs in Bibles supplied by missionaries. The children were fascinated by the creatures and missionaries contacted the Natural History Museum in London to ask for one. The museum contacted Wollaton Hall Museum in Nottingham, which has a collection of stuffed animals and staff there obtained the lamb from Helen Sharp, a taxidermist. Miss Sharp, of Stapleford, Nottinghamshire, said: "There are a lot of lambs in the Bible and the children were curious about them. The Natural History Museum no longer employs taxidermists so they passed the request on to me. With this lamb they can see the size of the animal and feel its coat." The lamb, which died of natural causes, will go to New Guinea next month.

Baronet sacks wife as school head

By Emma Wilkins

THE owner of a prep school has sacked his wife from her post as headmistress amid allegations that she had an affair with the director of studies. Sir Alford Houstoun-Boswall, 48, called a staff meeting at the Harrodian School last week and announced that Eliana, 51, had been dismissed. Guy Holloway, a 28-year-old Cambridge graduate, resigned as director of studies last week. Martin Carcon, the deputy headmaster, is the new acting head in charge of more than 100 pupils at the school where fees are £6,000 a year. A teacher at the school said yesterday: "There was a meeting on Tuesday and Sir Alford sacked his wife as headmistress. Guy resigned more than a week ago and all the staff are



Sir Alford, who sacked Eliana as head after she allegedly had an affair with Guy Holloway

very sorry because we were extremely fond of all of them." The couple are to divorce after 25 years of marriage. They founded the school in September 1993 on a site previously occupied by Harrod's sports and social club in Barnes, southwest London. The pair, whose children are Alexander, 23, and Julia, 17,

fought a long-running legal battle with Harrods over the use of the name "Harrodian". The department store claimed that the name had been used in connection with Harrods for more than 100 years, but lost the case. Last year Sir Alford, the eighth Baronet, sent bailiffs to Harrods to select wood worth £150,000 for seizure to settle a court bill. Harrods was granted an appeal last month against his use of the Harrodian name. Mr Holloway, who read English literature at Peterhouse, Cambridge, shared Lady Houstoun-Boswall's high expectations for the students. She chose him as director after he had tutored her daughter when the family lived in Paris. In Mr Holloway's English classes, he expected eight-year-olds to read *Romeo and Juliet* and to be able to take dictation from Donne, Virginia Woolf and James Joyce. Sir Alford, a former New York art lecturer, is said to be sharing his home with a 28-year-old Bangladeshi woman. The family's £16 million home in Kensington, west London, was sold last month.

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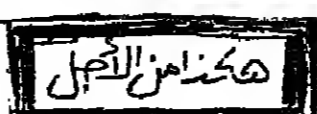
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EC99



# A MESSAGE FROM McDONALD'S TO ALL OUR CUSTOMERS.

Until further notice, we will no longer be offering products made with British beef in our restaurants in Great Britain.

Announcing the move, our President and Chief Executive Officer, Paul Preston said:

*“Our customers expect us to take a lead - and we have. We believe they can eat at McDonald's with confidence. We continue to have complete faith in the quality and safety of the food we sell in our restaurants. Our hamburgers only contain prime cuts of beef in which BSE has never been detected. We never have and never will use offal or mechanically recovered meat. The controls operated at all stages of our beef production have always been among the toughest in the food industry.*

*We believe that British beef is safe. However, we cannot ignore the fact that recent announcements have led to a growing loss of consumer confidence in British beef which has not been restored. We have always put our customers first. They trust us to provide high quality, safe food. We believe that they want us to take this action in the circumstances.*

*We remain committed to Britain and the British food industry. In 1995 we sourced over £240 million worth of food from British suppliers.*

*Our customers always have been and always will be our first concern.”*

However, from Thursday 28th March we will be selling hamburgers, Big Macs and quarterpounders now made exclusively from non-British beef.

Meanwhile, all our restaurants will remain open, serving chicken and fish products and of course, fries, drinks and breakfast.

And all with the quality, cleanliness, service and value you have come to expect.



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Sinn Fein supporters at University of Texas accused of publishing 'terrorism crib sheet'

Ulster security details posted on the Internet

By Stewart Tandler, Crime Correspondent

A TERRORISTS' "crib sheet" giving detailed information about M15 installations and military bases in Northern Ireland... The site also features a map showing Army bases which, like all the posted material, can be downloaded onto computers and printed.

They can browse through all the Army's Ulster installations and gather details such as addresses of an alleged M15 base and two CCHQ sub-stations... A spokesman for the Army in Northern Ireland said: "We do not take note of material on the Internet which may have a security or military reference but as a matter of policy we do not comment on Sinn Fein propaganda."



Hunter said the entry was clearly propaganda

not comment on Sinn Fein propaganda... Military sources said some of the information was old or inaccurate.

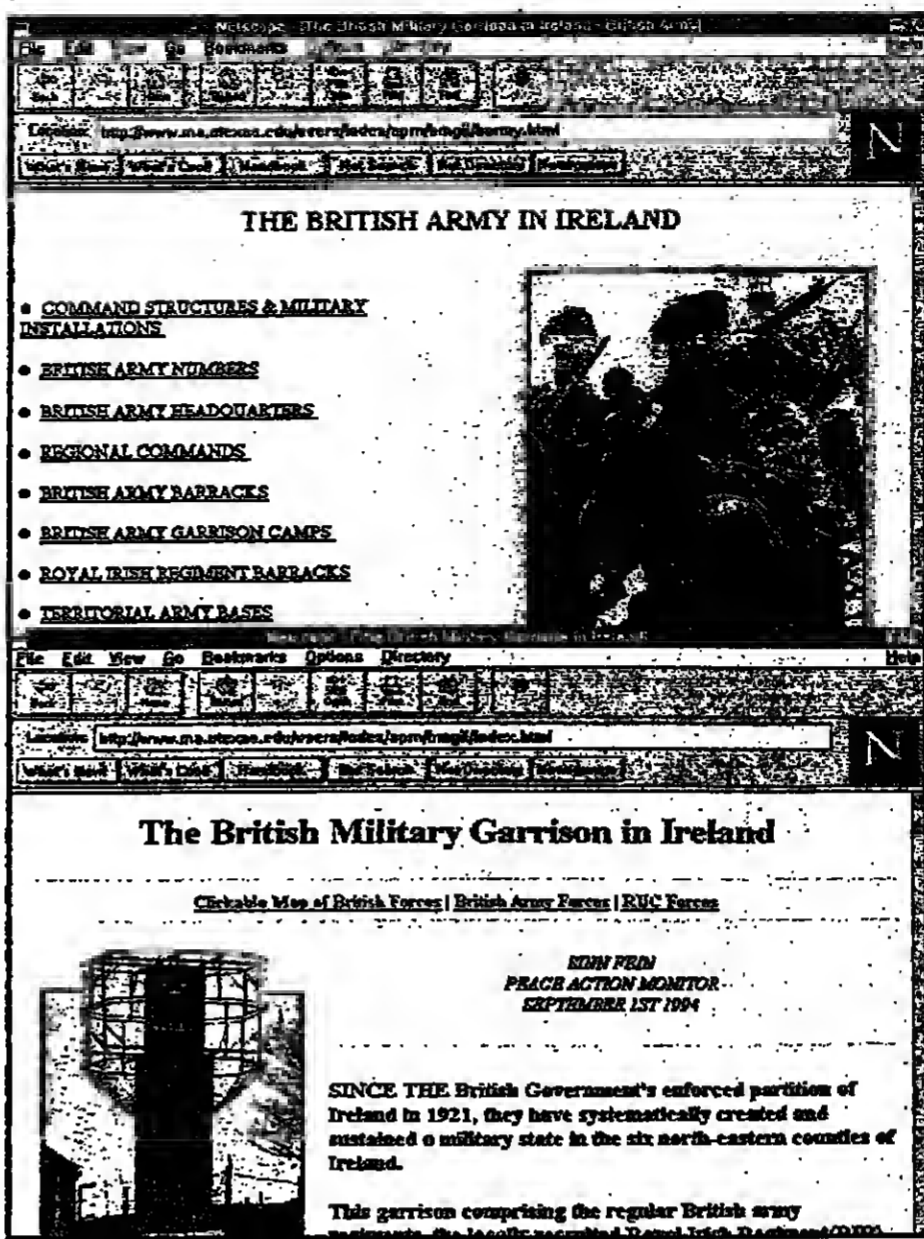
A spokesman for the University of Texas said there was a policy of free speech for the university's Internet facilities, but the university was investigating the use of the site.

The Internet entry is called 'The British Military Garrison in Ireland' and is headed 'Sinn Fein Peace Action Monitor, September 1st 1994'. It was placed on a World Wide Web site used by Sinn Fein through the maths department of the university in Austin.

The entry says the material was originally published by An Phoblacht, Sinn Fein's weekly newspaper. Readers are also told the material was "archived as a public resource" with help from an Irish interest group at the university and Ms Dana, a student development specialist in the university's sociology department.

Asked about the entry, Ms Dana said the information came from a Sinn Fein pamphlet published some time ago. She denied it was a terrorist crib sheet.

"It shows how incredibly extensive the British army of occupation in Ireland is," she said. She was not a member of Sinn Fein but she agreed with their views.



After inquiries by The Times, the entry was moved from the university to a new site

Cathedral siege man surrenders

A two-day armed siege at Northampton's Roman Catholic cathedral ended peacefully yesterday when a man surrendered to police shortly after 7am. A shotgun was found inside the building. The siege began at 3pm on Friday after a man spoke to a trainee priest, Gareth Forster. Mr Forster contacted police after the 39-year-old man, who had had a row with his former wife, told him he was armed.

In search of elms

A nationwide survey is being launched to monitor the survivors of Dutch elm disease. Readers of Country Living are being urged to locate specimens that have proved resistant to disease so they can be used for propagating new trees.

Teenager burnt

A teenager was badly burnt when he was attacked by two youths who lit the profluent in a can of deodorant and sprayed it into his face. Michael Coombes, 15, had been riding his bike when he was stopped and attacked in Peasehaven, East Sussex.

Sizewell opens

Sizewell B nuclear power station in Suffolk is due to be opened officially today by Ian Lang, President of the Board of Trade. The plant, which began generating electricity 13 months ago, has been the subject of environmental protests for the past 15 years.

Bin warning

Homeowners who leave their empty "wheeled bins" on the pavement after rubbish collections risk being prosecuted by Nottingham City Council for obstructing the highway. Every home in the city is being sent a warning leaflet.

Lottery winners

Nine players shared this week's £7.9 million National Lottery jackpot, each receiving £877,907. Ninety-eight people won £24,807 each by matching five numbers and the bonus ball and 1,962 matched five to win £774. Winning numbers, page 24.

Republicans cheer as Labour MP attacks peace process



Austin-Walker criticised delays and prevarication

By Nicholas Watt, Ireland Correspondent

A LEFT-wing Labour MP won applause at Sinn Fein's annual conference yesterday for a stinging attack on John Major's handling of the peace process.

John Austin-Walker, MP for Woolwich, who is chairman of the Campaign Group of Labour MPs, praised Gerry Adams and said that Mr Major's plan for elections in Northern Ireland showed that the Prime Minister had eaten too much beef. Mr Austin-Walker, who said he disagreed with Labour's bipartisan approach over Northern Ireland, told the conference in Dublin that Mr Major had repeatedly frustrated the start of all-party talks.

Standing on a platform within yards of leading republicans, the MP said: "I understand the anger and frustration felt by the nationalist community in the face of delay after delay as a weak British Prime Minister has prevaricated and placed obstacles in the way of talks while pandering to the Unionists to keep his Westminster majority."

Praising Sinn Fein as a "genuine political party", Mr Austin-Walker said it was wrong of the British Government to exclude the party from talks. He added: "Those citizens who voted for Sinn Fein had no part in Canary Wharf, and yet they are disenfranchised and not allowed a voice in the peace talks."

Mr Austin-Walker's speech came as the Sinn Fein leadership toughened its opposition to Mr Major's election plan. Martin McGuinness told the conference that Sinn Fein would meet the SDLP in the next week to press for a boycott.

However, Mr McGuinness left the way open to participation in the election when he said: "This party has no fear whatsoever of elections. We have consistently established... a very substantial electoral mandate which has made Sinn Fein one of the most important political parties in the north of our country."

His comments indicated that Sinn Fein was likely to agree eventually to stand in the elections, although it will boycott the forum. The leadership's stance is designed to reassure republicans that Sinn Fein is not wavering in its strong opposition to

what it perceives as the establishment of a Stormont-style assembly. Sinn Fein's conference, held a month before the 80th anniversary of the Easter Rising in 1916, was carefully designed to sell a moderate image of the party to the outside world while reassuring activists that it has not abandoned its core republican ideals. It was held at the ornate Ambassador cinema in Parnell Square, where the Irish Volunteers were founded in 1905.

The leadership sat framed by an understated light blue backdrop and the garrish posters and slogans of old conferences were not on view. However, the faces of the ten republican hunger strikers who died in 1981 could just be made out in faded pictures on the top of the set.

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Brain-damaged attack victim taps out crucial information for police

By Stephen Farrell

DETECTIVES believe they are on the verge of a breakthrough in the case of paralysed musician who emerged from a 15-month coma to spell out the message that someone had tried to kill him.

Geoffrey Wildsmith, 21, spends two hours a day painstakingly tapping out a few words on a special computer that is his only means of communication. Slowly but surely he has told British Transport Police how he came to be found on a train with part of his skull and brain missing. By the end of next week his statement should be

complete, and the police are confident he can provide clues as to who attacked him. Mr Wildsmith was injured on the 11.35pm Portsmouth to Woking train on April 23, 1994. He emerged from a coma after 15 months, but he still cannot talk and is virtually blind. He is also paralysed, apart from some movement in the knuckle of his right-hand middle finger.

He communicates through a special computer software package, his right hand placed across his chest and his knuckle over a touchpad. As a screen cursor and electronic voice move through the alphabet, he hits the electronic pad

when the right letter comes up, putting words together.

The police team, trained in the rules of obtaining video evidence, is headed by Detective Inspector Ron Wainler. "Progress is really, really slow," he said yesterday. "The most we are getting out of him is about two sentences a day. The temptation of helping Geoffrey out by looking for a yes/no answer is great, but one mistake or leading question and we could lose the whole job."

Geoffrey's mother, Marinette Appassamy, 42, from Guildford, Surrey, visits him up to five times a week, although she cannot use the

computer to communicate with him because others need it. She said she never believed doctors who told her that her son's personality was gone.

After Geoffrey had been in intensive care two weeks we had a meeting with the consultant and he wiped the floor with us," she said. "He said the Geoffrey we knew was not coming back and would never have any intelligence."

However she said Geoffrey had always opened his eyes when she entered the room, which kept her going. "I am his mother and you know your child. He has proved them wrong so far, and he can carry on proving them wrong."

Aircraft fire caused by wrong circuit breaker

By Harvey Elliott, Air Correspondent

A WRONG circuit breaker fitted to a British Airways jumbo jet led to a mid-air fire which, had it happened earlier in the flight, could have caused a crash and the deaths of 358 people.

Air accident investigators believe that a fire which broke out in the passenger cabin of a Boeing 747-400 shortly before it came in to land at Heathrow after a 11-hour flight from Johannesburg on January 22 was caused by a surge of electrical power through wires to the jet's humidifier.

Normally the circuit-breaker would have cut off the power supply and prevented the fire. But engineers fitted

25 amp breakers, instead of 2.5 amp, in two places. The powerful surge of electricity melted wires behind the cabin wall when the breaker failed to trip.

After the incident it was discovered that a second Boeing 747-400 also had a wrong circuit breaker.

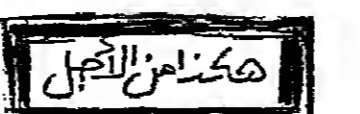
The incident began as the jet was flying at 39,000 ft over Abbeville in France. A passenger noticed sparks coming from the air conditioning vent and a burning smell.

BA engineers are convinced that had the fire broken out any earlier, the aircraft could have caught fire in mid-air and almost certainly exploded.

Kenya & Tanzania advertisement for Thorn Tree, Kenya Royal, Serengeti, and Egypt/Kenya tours. Includes contact information for Somak Holidays.

Advertisement for The Oliver & Claire Strip, featuring a modern office and contact details.

Direct Line advertisement for savings accounts. Includes a table of interest rates for various account types and contact information for London, Manchester, and Glasgow.





### Eurovision hopeful faces big screen test

GINA G, the Australian-born singer who is to represent Britain at the Eurovision Song Contest on May 18 before a television audience of more than 300 million, still gets stage fright after a disastrous performance early in her career.

"I keep telling people that I won't be nervous, but I'm really just trying to convince myself," she said yesterday. "The first time I ever had to sing live on television, the performance was transmitted live to the whole of Australia. Nerves killed me that night. I was shaking and I dried up. My first live was just a mess. It was awful."

Before the competition the 25-year-old from Queensland will be singing live as often as possible to polish her act. Her next scheduled performance is on Thursday's *Top of the Pops*. "I'm so busy I don't even have time for a boyfriend. The only male in my life is Dilin, my horse," she said.



Nervous wait: Gina G will be singing for Britain in Europe on May 18

## Better awareness and treatment cuts death rate

# Breast cancer is finally in retreat after 30 years

BY JEREMY LAURANCE, HEALTH CORRESPONDENT

BREAST cancer, the greatest scourge of women in the Western world, is in retreat after three decades during which the toll from the disease mounted to record levels. A comparison of death rates in 20 countries has shown that in 16 the steep rise in earlier years has levelled off or started to fall.

The UK has recorded the biggest fall, of more than 10 per cent since 1989 in women under 80, saving at least 1,000 lives a year. The death rate rose by 30 per cent in the previous three decades to put Britain at the top of the league for breast-cancer deaths.

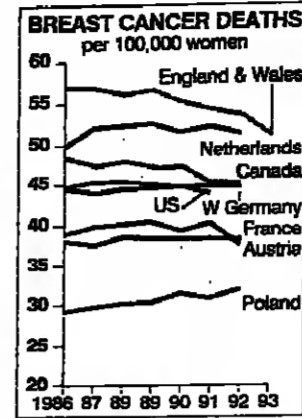
Although other countries have seen similar falls since the late 1980s, the size of the drop in Britain means it is no longer the breast-cancer capital of the world. The Netherlands, Belgium, Denmark and New Zealand now have similar death rates to Britain's.

Breast cancer is the commonest female cancer, claim-

ing 600,000 lives a year worldwide. Although deaths are falling in the West, they are rising in Eastern Europe and the developing world.

Dr Valerie Beral, who carried out the study published in the *British Journal of Cancer* today, said it was encouraging that the fall in the UK death rate, first reported last year, was continuing and was being mirrored in Europe and North America. Total UK deaths from breast cancer were below 13,000 in 1994 compared with 14,008 in 1989.

In all countries the decline began earliest and is most marked for women under 50. The decrease is too sudden to be wholly due to a fall in the number of women developing the disease. Dr Beral, head of the Imperial Cancer Research Fund's epidemiology unit in Oxford, said: "The sharp decline may well have something to do with treatment. There is better awareness of breast cancer and people are



coming forward earlier. There has been a great effort to do something about it and it looks as if it is working."

Drug treatments for breast cancer, such as tamoxifen, have been more widely used in the past decade, in addition to surgery and radiotherapy. This increase in chemotherapy has come on top of changes in child-bearing patterns. Having babies, especially at a young age, protects against breast cancer. In Britain and

other western European countries, there was a surge in births after the Second World War, reducing the proportion of childless women from a fifth to a tenth, resulting in a drop in breast cancer in women in their fifties and sixties.

Dr Beral said: "There is a move towards similar child-bearing rates across the world and breast cancer rates are converging. Countries with a high death rate, such as the UK and Canada, are going down and countries with a low death rate, such as Poland and Spain, where people are having fewer children later, are coming up. However, worldwide the numbers dying are worse than a decade ago because the death rate is rising in developing countries." □ Endometriosis, a painful womb condition affecting one woman in ten, is often not diagnosed for more than seven years after symptoms appear, according to a report by the National Endometriosis Society.

## Beware sting in royal jelly tale



Dr Thomas Stuttaford

THE Princess of Wales is reported to be back on lunching terms with her step-family, but what they ate at the London hotel where they met and whether the menu included royal jelly is not recorded.

Nobody could have done more to enhance the popularity of royal jelly than Dame Barbara Cartland, the Princess's step-grandmother, whose own appearance adds credence to claims that the jelly wards off some of the signs and symptoms of old age. It is also reputed to ease the suffering experienced by people with chronic degenerative diseases, such as osteoarthritis.

Royal jelly is the sticky, thick, milky spit derived from the salivary glands of the worker bee which is essential for the proper maturation of the queen bee and contains complex proteins.

Although the good which royal jelly may do has not been proved, two recent reports in *The Medical Journal of Australia*, one in the *British Medical Journal* and a review of the jelly's use in the magazine *Hospital Update* explain clearly its possible danger when people use it who are sensitive to it. Acute asthma, respiratory distress, anaphylactic shock and even death have followed the taking of the jelly by people who

have a history of asthma or other allergies. A possible hazard is that some of the proprietary names of the product give little clue as to its main constituent.

The case reported in the *BMJ* is typical. The patient was a woman who had previously suffered only from mild asthma, but 40 minutes after taking two capsules of royal jelly her pulse was racing at 130 beats a minute and her normal breathing had been replaced by ten faint sighs a minute, so feeble that they could not be heard through a stethoscope. Blue and semi-conscious, the woman's life was saved only by a ventilator and a cocktail of intravenous drugs. Surprisingly, six weeks after discharge from hospital, the patient allowed hope to triumph over experience and took another dose of royal jelly; once again she went into respiratory distress and again she survived.

The *Australian Medical Journal* reports several cases of respiratory distress and collapse after taking royal jelly: in these instances the symptoms started between 20 minutes and two hours after taking it. Interestingly, the patients' skin tested positive for royal jelly, but not to bee stings. *Hospital Update* recommends people with a history of asthma or other allergies should avoid royal jelly.

## BBC tightens its code on decency

BY ALEXANDRA FREAN, MEDIA CORRESPONDENT

THE BBC is to tighten its code of practice on bad language, sex, violence and blasphemy in response to growing public concern about standards of taste and decency.

Under new guidelines for television and radio producers to be published this summer, programme-makers will have to take "greater care about the use of bad language, especially religious language". They will also need to show more caution in the portrayal of sex and the use of stereotypes in comedy, particularly with racist overtones.

The 9pm family viewing watershed, marking the point from which explicitly violent and sexual material can be broadcast, will be applied more stringently. Producers will also be required to ensure that programmes that are likely to be regarded as controversial or challenging are preceded by warnings about their content.

The new guidelines are prompted by concern about material in a wide range of programmes over the past three years, ranging from *The Archers* on Radio 4, which recently featured a mild expletive, to sex scenes in dramas such as *The Buddha of Suburbia* on BBC2. The code comes as a parting shot from Marmaduke Hussey, the

BBC chairman who retires next Monday after ten years. Last October he organised a seminar on taste and decency.

In a letter this week to the 125 experts and consumer representatives at the seminar, Mr Hussey said that the guidelines would "emphasise the concept of respect as a key issue in determining where the boundaries will lie in issues of taste, sex and language". The new guidelines would also "give more detailed and clear guidance relating to the portrayal of violence".

While sensitive to audience concern about standards of taste and decency, Mr Hussey is acutely aware of the difficulties producers face. "We are now broadcasting to a fragmented audience with very different views about what constitutes good taste and decent behaviour," he told the seminar.

For the first time the guidelines, which were last updated three years ago, single out the need for special care to be taken with the scheduling of radio programmes, particularly on Radios 1 and 4. Unlike television, radio has never operated a watershed policy. A further BBC seminar, this time focusing on children's programmes, will be held in June to coincide with the publication of the guidelines.

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Commission officials draft plans to compensate farmers for losses from slaughter and drop in prices

# Calls grow for continent-wide ban on British beef

**EUROPE**

FROM CHARLES BREMNER  
IN BRUSSELS

SENIOR European Union officials will be under strong pressure to introduce a continent-wide ban on British beef when they gather in Brussels today to draft a response to the BSE crisis.

With British beef now quarantined by ten EU states, the Standing Veterinary Committee is to advise on measures that the European Commission's farm section should take to limit the health risk from beef. Franz Fischler, the EU's Austrian Farm Commissioner, holds responsibility for a final decision, which will be put to the full Commission on Wednesday.

Commission officials are also drafting options for compensating British and European farmers for losses from a possible collapse in beef prices and the need to slaughter. Douglas Hogg, the Agriculture Minister, said yesterday that Britain was considering slaughter and expected Brussels to offer aid.

At present, there are no common agricultural policy funds available for emergency compensation for diseased cattle, although there is ample cash to subsidise producers of healthy beef should prices slide. On



The condition Creutzfeldt-Jakob disease, the human form of "mad cow" disease, was named after two German psychiatrists who came across the disease in the 1920s. Hans-Gerhard Creutzfeldt (1885-1964), left, first reported the features of a condition which he distinguished from multiple sclerosis. Alfons Maria Jakob (1884-1931), right, was aware of Creutzfeldt's work and presented three case studies of pre-senile dementia. He began to compile a comprehensive list of clinical and autopsy data. The eponym soon came into general use, but in its early days the disease was known as Jakob-Creutzfeldt disease.



Friday, an independent body of EU experts gave some comfort to Britain by finding that there was still no evidence that BSE was transmissible to humans. However, it called for stricter measures, including the slaughter of all cattle at risk, mainly older animals that might have eaten feed containing animal remains before it was banned by the EU in 1990.

Germany and Ireland have said the advice is grossly inadequate to ensure against risk and ease consumers' fears. Most EU states are counting on the Commission to enforce at least a temporary ban

pending further scientific advice. Britain has no veto on the veterinary committee. The Agriculture Ministry's officials will tell their EU colleagues that the Government's steps so far are adequate to safeguard health and will urge against any hasty decision to keep British meat out of the Union.

Netherlands, Portugal and Sweden. As "mad cow" disease dominated public debate across the Continent over the weekend, police turned away lorry-loads of British beef away at the French-Belgian border and supermarkets rushed to labels proclaiming the pure origins of their meat.

In France, Philippe de Villiers, the nationalist, anti-Maastricht politician who is allied to Sir James Goldsmith said his group was starting legal proceedings against the Commission for its failure to protect consumers. "I am saying that the Brussels Commission was aware that there were indications that the mad cow [disease] could be transmitted to man," said M de Villiers, who is an MEP as well as a member of the French parliament. "We also accuse it of hampering the state protection of consumers for the sake of the free movement of goods."

European consumer groups condemned the British Government's delay in taking decisive measures to combat BSE. "We believe that more stringent measures should have been taken during the mid-1980s when indications about the existence of the BSE problem were first made public," said Kees de Winter, of the Brussels-based European Consumers' Organisation.

William Rees-Mogg, page 20  
Leading article, page 21

**OPTIONS FOR SLAUGHTER**



**1 Slaughter entire herd:** least likely option. Would mean killing about 12 million cattle. Animals would probably be killed on farm with a lethal injection, as BSE cows are now. Incineration of carcasses would be a huge problem. Slaughter operation would have to be phased over several months.

**Reason:** only way to be sure of eradicating BSE because for every live animal that shows symptoms two others may be incubating the disease.

**Cost:** compensation for slaughtered animals at least £7 billion. But this could rise to £20 billion to cover loss of income while herds are rebuilt and assistance for others dependent on beef industry, such as abattoirs, processors, hauliers and exporters.

**2 Slaughter all herds that have had at least one case of BSE:** 54 per cent of dairy herds and 15 per cent of beef herds have had at least one case of BSE each. Could mean killing up to five million cattle. Would be devastating in the South West of England where the dairy industry is concentrated. Up to two thirds of farms in this area have had cases of BSE.

**Reason:** less expensive measure than wholesale slaughter but would still mean destroying hundreds of thousands of healthy animals.

**Cost:** about £4 billion in compensation for slaughtered animals. But up to £10 billion to cover income loss and assistance to rest of beef industry. Less costly variant of this option would involve killing only herds with highest percentage of BSE cases.

**3 Slaughter all animals born before a certain date:** historically, few cases of BSE have been found in any animal younger than 30 months old. No case has been found in any animal that has been born during the past 30 months. Could mean slaughtering up to 4.5 million cattle including thousands in herds that have never had a case of BSE. This may prove to be the Government's favoured option.

**Reason:** would eliminate older dairy cows which are the most likely to have eaten the scrapie-infected feed which was banned in July 1988 and are most likely to be harbouring BSE. But many beef cows are older than dairy cows and these would be destroyed too, even though few beef herds have had BSE.

**Cost:** up to £3.2 billion in compensation for slaughtered animals, but double or triple that to cover income loss and assistance to rest of beef industry.

**4 Slaughter older animals but only those in herds that have had a case of BSE:** would reduce the number of animals needing to be killed to about 800,000 if 1989 is chosen as the cut-off date. Far more would have to be killed if any animals older than 30 months are targeted for slaughter.

**Reason:** would put the emphasis on removing older dairy cows and reduce unnecessary destruction of suckler (beef) cows because far fewer beef herds have had BSE.

**Cost:** about £700 million if 1989 is chosen date, but counting cover for income loss or assistance to rest of beef industry. Much higher cost if later dates chosen.

**5 Destroy dairy cows at the end of their milking life:** about 790,000 old dairy cows go into the food chain annually for use in cheaper meat products and also for export. Disposal of the carcasses would be a problem if they could not be eaten.

**Reason:** would take old dairy cows out of human food chain while still enabling farmers to earn income from milk production during the animals' lives. No BSE infectivity has ever been found in milk.

**Cost:** direct cost to farmers would be limited to the slaughter value of dairy cows, which is currently about £395 million a year.

**6 Change the methods of butchering dairy carcasses:** this would require new cutting plants to be set up in which meat would be removed from dairy cow carcasses in such a way as to avoid disturbing the spinal cord, the site of BSE infection, and spreading the contamination.

**Reason:** relatively easy to put into practice and would avoid costly slaughter of cattle, other than those animals which show BSE symptoms as under current policy. Would be seen by many as a minimalist solution insufficient to restore consumer confidence.

**Cost:** might be no more than £200 million.

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POSTAL



'We can't go on like this. The lifeblood of the industry is draining away'

# Cattlemen face up to the slaughter of BSE herds

By MICHAEL HORNBY  
AGRICULTURE  
CORRESPONDENT

CATTLE farmers are facing ruin as the panic over "mad cow" disease threatens a mass boycott of British beef and the end of lucrative foreign markets. Many are coming to the conclusion that the only chance of restoring consumer confidence lies in drastic action by the Government, including mass slaughter, including mass slaughter. At stake is a multibillion-pound industry that has helped to shape the face of rural Britain. The value of cattle and calves slaughtered last year was £2.4 billion, milk and milk products earned farmers £3.5 billion. The beef and dairy industries are inextricably linked because up to two thirds of British beef comes from dairy herds in the form of unwanted calves, and cows slaughtered at the end of their milking life. Richard Haddock, who keeps 1,150 beef cattle at Kingswear, Devon, said: "We

## BEEF FARMERS

can't go on like this. The lifeblood of the industry is draining away. We have got to take action that might once have been thought unthinkable." Mr Haddock's herd, one of the biggest in the country, is worth nearly £1 million. He specialises in rearing cattle to the age of ten months and selling them on to other farmers to fatten for slaughter. His customers are now refusing to take any more cattle because they cannot sell their finished animals to abattoirs. "Demand has collapsed and I am facing a cashflow crisis," he said. "At the end of this month I will have rent to pay on two of my three farms, as well as fuel and wages bills. I have already cancelled an order for a new tractor that I was planning to buy." Mr Haddock is pressing the Government to slaughter and destroy all animals born before January 1, 1992, in any herd that has had a case of

BSE. He believes that would eliminate all cattle that could conceivably have eaten the feed believed to have caused the disease. "The scrapie-infected feed was banned in 1988, but we all know that some continued in circulation for several years afterwards," he said. "No animal born after 1992 should have eaten any. It would be sensible to remove any older animals from herds with a history of BSE." On this basis, Mr Haddock reckons he would lose 250 of his breeding stock of 350 suckler cows. "I would expect the Government to compensate me for the loss of the cows, which are worth around £250,000." The South West is particularly badly hit by the BSE crisis because its rich pastureland makes it especially suitable for dairy farming and cattle rearing. Up to two thirds of dairy farms in the region

are thought to have had at least one case of BSE, well above the average. Ewen Cameron, president of the Country Landowners' Association, whose 50,000 members own half of England and Wales, keeps a 200-cow dairy herd near Ilminster in Somerset. He said: "I earn about £25,000 a year selling some 150 calves born to my dairy cows for beef, an important contribution to overall profits." Mr Cameron has had 30 cases of BSE on his farm. "It may be that selective slaughtering of the animals most likely to have been exposed to infection may be the only option," he said. "Older dairy cows in particular may have to be taken out of the food chain." The last major scare involving British beef was a mass outbreak of foot-and-mouth disease in 1967-68. Whole herds were destroyed as 2,364 outbreaks were detected around Britain. The cost to the country was estimated at £150 million.



Richard Haddock, who farms 1,150 beef cattle in Devon, advocates "previously unthinkable" action

## Lamb prices likely to leap again at market

Sheep farmers, traditionally the poor cousins of British agriculture, emerged yesterday as one winner in the BSE crisis. Lamb prices are expected to soar further at auction today after rising sharply last Thursday and Friday. By Friday the price of lamb had risen to £1.65 a kilogram (five weight) from £1.46 at the beginning of the week. It is 35p more than at the same time last year. Beef, meanwhile, dropped to 94p from about £1.18 last Monday. The trend is expected to continue this week as more consumers turn away from beef and use lamb as a substitute. Most sheep farmers, however, were frustrated that the extra demand had come at the wrong time of year for them.

## Kuwait joins boycott

Kuwait has suspended imports of British beef days after Oman, Qatar and Bahrain took similar action. Abdel Aziz Dkhell, the Kuwaiti Cabinet Secretary, said it had decided "to temporarily suspend its imports of meat from countries affected by the 'mad cow' disease".

## 46% less inclined to eat beef

Nearly half of people are less inclined to eat beef, according to a survey. The NOP telephone poll of 502 adults, commissioned for last night's Money Programme on BBC2, found 46 per cent "less inclined" to eat beef, while 39 per cent would still eat beef.

## Researcher honoured

The International Wolf Foundation in Jerusalem awarded its annual prize of \$100,000 (£65,000) to Professor Stanley B. Prusiner, a medical researcher from the University of California at San Francisco, who discovered the pathogens that cause "mad cow" disease.

## Meat crisis is good news for cats and dogs

By CAROL MIDDLEY

## CONSUMERS

SHOPPERS were buying cut-price beef for their pet dogs and cats yesterday as the impact of the BSE scare began to show in shop and supermarkets. Unsold beef cuts, mince and hamburgers were piled high on the shelves as consumers turned against the beef industry. One woman, a pensioner from Manchester shopping at her local Sainsbury, bought reduced steak: "I wouldn't normally be able to afford this for myself, let alone for my dog and cat but they might as well benefit from it," she said. Another man at a central London supermarket picked up steak reduced by £1 and said: "It's for the dog. I wouldn't let my daughter touch it." Other shoppers, however, unimpressed by the BSE crisis, were stockpiling cheap beef for their freezers. Some independent stores reported beef sales down by up to a half but a surge in demand for lamb, pork, chicken and fish. Lamb mince was being offered instead of traditional beef mince as a substitute for dishes such as spaghetti bolognese. Market traders were considering laying off staff paid to cut and prepare the beef. Bruce Callard, of Kirkgate

Market, Leeds, said: "Sales of beef have slumped dramatically but sales of pork, lamb and chicken are going berserk. Beef was a third of our sales but I doubt very much if we can pick it all up by selling other meat. If sales continue to fall like this we'll seriously have to think about staff cuts. Pork, lamb and chicken don't take anywhere near as much time to prepare." Leading supermarket chains admitted they had suffered a significant drop in beef sales but said they had adjusted their orders as soon as the scare broke. David Sawday, from Tesco, said: "The sales decrease has affected both fresh and frozen beef but we haven't noticed a particular surge in vegetarian products. People appear to have simply opted for another meat instead." Sainsbury said that although beef sales were down it would be impossible to say by how much until the end of the week. At the Asda in the Gateshead MetroCentre chicken sold out on Saturday while beef sales were down by a quarter on the previous week. The Isle of Wight zoo appealed for unwanted beef to feed its 14 tigers.

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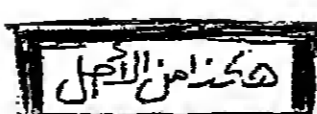
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A stall holder, Jean-Claude Sennepin, cuts a piece of Dutch cheese yesterday at a Paris market beneath a sign giving the price, for a two-week trial run of the proposed European single currency, in francs and euros

# Spin doctors prescribe dose of cross-Channel passion

Stand by for another dose of the "John and Jacques" love affair from the spin doctors of Downing Street. John Major flies to Turin this week to eat an agreeable meal or two with his fellow European Union leaders and we will hear again what a *merveilleux rapport* the Prime Minister has with President Chirac.



weeks before he was elected last year, M Chirac dropped in to No 10, France, he explained, has to stay closer to Germany than to any other EU state. We will be moving closer to you, he told Mr Major, but that will be in order to scare the Germans and to extract bigger concessions from them in the EU. The French are in a gigantic muddle about how to

make Europe work as well for them in the 21st century as it has during the last 40 years. Their Prime Minister makes speeches lauding the superior democratic credentials of the sovereign nation state while the Foreign Minister describes himself as a federalist. Nobody in the French media makes prominent mention of the fact that the president of the Bundesbank has underlined that membership of a single currency means "a permanent political union at the core level of national sovereignty".

delicious irony — the Germans are meeting a little local difficulty qualifications. Ancient Anglo-French quarrels lurk beneath the surface. French ministers are furiously determined to rebuild the exchange-rate mechanism so that British, Spanish and Italian businesses can reap no more advantages from their devaluations against the franc. This could cause sparks when finance ministers meet in Verona next month.

It is not hard to predict how this Panglossian optimism might unravel. Philippe Seguin, the man who almost derailed Maastricht in France, is pressing M Chirac to keep his promises to create new jobs. Across the Rhine, the head of the Bundesbank

GEORGE BROCK

# Tricky birth expected for 'Son of Maastricht'

FROM CHARLES BREMNER IN BRUSSELS

AFTER months of diplomatic foreplay, the leaders of the 15 nations of the European Union gather in Turin on Friday for the grand opening of a treaty negotiation that none of them really wants. With unemployment ravaging the continent and a public belief that alien forces are menacing the comforts of the European existence, the time hardly seems right for a return to the forlorn fields of Maastricht.

regional programmes that are vital before the EU can absorb up to ten new members from Central and Eastern Europe. Instead, the conference will focus on tuning up the mechanics of decision-making and tinker with the roles of the Commission and parliament. In the face of widespread qualms, the best that Euro-enthusiasts hope from the new "Treaty of Amsterdam" expected in June next year, is the groundwork for a "flexible" Union. This would bypass Britain and allow the more eager and able states to cluster around Germany at the heart of what should eventually be a diverse new assembly of nations. With a bit of luck, the majority hope, Britain can be prevailed upon to allow the Union to be equipped with stronger machinery for controlling crime and frontiers, for a more common foreign policy and defence.

in Brussels. As "Son of Maastricht" has loomed closer and member states have proclaimed competing visions, the public has taken an ever dimmer view of the arcane confection of 1991. While a big slice of people in Europe supports deeper union, Maastricht's grim image is ensuring that governments are entering the conference hard on the defensive. In unison, the politicians are promising to bring Europe back to the citizen with calls for an "employment chapter" to be written into the new treaty. Behind that point bubbles the discord over the ultimate goal of the Union. Germany and France, along with the Benelux trio, stick to the classic doctrine that the Union is an ultimately political enterprise for ensuring peace and protection from "globalisation".

to the despair of many, including some of its own diplomats, has committed itself to a minimal-menu conference, ruling out any concessions before negotiation even opens. The other Europeans assume that Tony Blair will succeed John Major before the endgame but few expect a New Labour government to be much more flexible on key issues such as curbing the national veto and pooling more sovereignty. Jacques Santer, the embattled Commission President, thinks Britain will yield a little from Mr Major's hard line but must be given a helping hand. At the other extreme, Helmut Kohl, the German Chancellor, sees the Maastricht review, along with monetary union, as a last chance for Europe to avert upheaval and even war in the next century. Somewhere in the middle, the France of President Chirac is proclaiming renewed attachment to the nation state while uttering ambitions for closer partnership that are a far cry from the grand European design of François Mitterrand. The new imbalance between France and Germany, the old powerhouse of the Community, offers the most telling glimpse of the tensions in the EU.



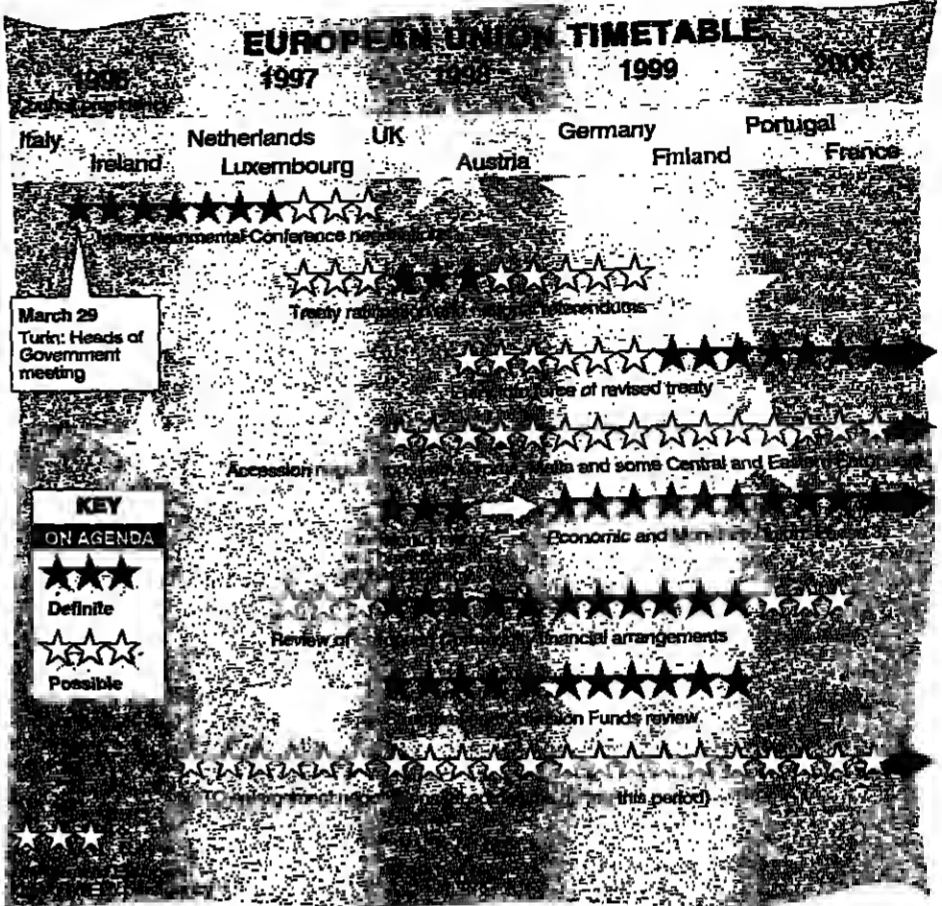
TURIN SUMMIT



Monnet pioneered the ideal of united Europe



Agnelli: exposed Turin prostitution scandal



# Fiat dynasty takes the driving seat

FROM RICHARD OWEN IN ROME

TURIN, the venue for this week's European Union summit, is the birthplace of Italian unity. It is the Piedmont capital in which Cavour proclaimed the unified Italian state in 1861. The polished diplomats of the Italian Foreign Ministry, who have kept the European Union agenda on target despite political chaos at home, would like Turin in 1996 to mark a further stage in the unification of Europe under the current Italian presidency.

Even the summit venue, the Lingotto, is an imaginative redevelopment of the original 1917 Fiat factory by the great Italian architect, Renzo Piano. Up on the roof, above a complex of restaurants and high-tech auditoriums, is the famous Fiat test track, much praised by Le Corbusier and still admired by students of design as a "superb piece of engineering".

Cinzano, the football team Juventus and the newspaper *La Stampa*. The city is run by Valentino Castellani, a directly elected left-wing mayor. However, Signor Castellani's form of socialism is far removed from the radicalism of the Italian labour movement formed during industrial riots at Fiat, led by Antonio Gramsci, the founder of Italian communism. It is even further removed from the twisted Marxism of the terrorist Red Brigades, which were also spawned — though rather later — on Fiat's factory floor.

Castellani to expose a scandal involving senior Italian diplomats in Lagos who allegedly took bribes of up to \$3,000 (£1,900) a time to give Nigerian prostitutes visas. One diplomat is under arrest, as is the Nigerian "madam" in Turin, Florence Enahimian, who allegedly controlled thousands of prostitutes. The spurious reasons given by the women for wanting to visit Italy range from "visiting the Pope" to "taking part in basketball matches". The xenophobic Northern League, which commands 10 per cent of the vote in Piedmont, is making immigration an election issue. The Italian Government hopes that joint EU action on immigration will defuse this.

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# Yeltsin bid to calm nuclear concerns

FROM LEVLA LINTON IN OSLO

PRESIDENT YELTSIN will seek to allay Norwegian fears about Russian nuclear waste in the Kola Peninsula 30 miles from their shared border as he begins his first state visit to Norway today. Bjorn Tore Godal, the Norwegian Foreign Minister, said: "It is the graveyard of the Cold War. There are fuels and materials which are not dealt with properly." Norway is also expected to raise the detention of a worker for an Oslo-based environmental group partly funded by the Norwegian Government. Alexander Nikitin, a former Russian naval officer who carried out research on radioactive contamination in Murmansk for Belona, was arrested in St Petersburg last month. He is charged with treason, a capital offence.

Other issues to be discussed include the Nordic-Russian Barents Council, which formalises co-operation between Russia, Norway, Sweden and Finland and helps Russia in cleaning up its nuclear waste. Mr Yeltsin will be keen to convince Norway that Russia, which will host a nuclear security summit of the Group of Seven leading industrialised nations next month, is making environmental progress. He may raise Nato's Battle Griffin 96 manoeuvres and other recent Western exercises in northern Norway which have coincided with increasing worries in Moscow about Nato expansion.

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# Australia braced for six-month trial over serial killings

FROM ROGER MAYNARD IN SYDNEY

A MAN alleged to be Australia's worst serial killer will go on trial today accused of murdering seven backpackers, including two young Britons.

During his alleged rampage, police said they believed Ivan Milat, 51, had hunted some of his victims like animals, giving them a head start before stalking them through the New South Wales bush.

The trial will last at least six months and hundreds of witnesses will be called to give evidence. Mr Milat, a road worker, was arrested at his home in Sydney in May 1994. The trial promises to be one of the longest and most expensive in Australian judicial history.

Mr Milat is charged with the killing of an Australian couple, three Germans and two British women, Joanne Walters and Caroline Clarke, both 22.

It was the disappearance of the young British women four years ago that led to the grim discovery of the bodies of all seven backpackers in remote bushland in the New South Wales Southern Highlands.

Ms Walters, from Maesteg, Mid-Glamorgan, and Ms Clarke, from Sleafy, Northumberland, were on a working holiday. In April 1992, while hitch-hiking from Sydney to Melbourne, they vanished. Concerned for their safety, their families flew to Australia as the police mounted a nationwide search. Six

months later their remains were found in the Belanglo State Forest, about 60 miles south of Sydney. Joanne had been repeatedly stabbed and Caroline stabbed and shot ten times in the head and upper body.

The way the bodies had been left suggested they might have been sexually assaulted.

Over the next 14 months, five more bodies were discovered in the dense undergrowth. Two Australians, Deborah Everist and James Gibson, both 19, had been missing since December 1989.

Simone Schmitt, a 21-year-old German backpacker, had disappeared in 1991. Fellow Germans Anja Habschied and Gabor Neugebauer, also in their early twenties, had last been seen alive in 1992.

All had died from either knife or shotgun wounds and each had disappeared while hitch-hiking from Sydney to Melbourne.

Police launched one of the biggest manhunts in Australian history. Hundreds of people were interviewed, as detectives investigated thousands of different leads.

Their inquiries eventually led them to a suburban bungalow on the outskirts of Sydney, where Ivan Robert Marko Milat, a road repairer, was arrested and subsequently charged with the murder of all seven backpackers.

He was also accused of the attempted murder of another British tourist, armed robbery

and other gun offences. Inside Mr Milat's home, and houses belonging to some of his relatives, police allegedly found gun parts, ammunition and knives, as well as camping equipment said to have belonged to some of the murdered backpackers.

Mr Milat, the son of a Croat, was a non-smoking teetotaler, whose luxuries in life were a four-wheel-drive vehicle and a Harley Davidson motorcycle. He also allegedly enjoyed snuffing and hunting.

His trial, which was delayed because of a dispute over legal aid allowances, is expected to hear evidence from about 200 witnesses. Foreign witnesses are likely to include Joanne and Caroline's parents.

The New South Wales Government is offering financial assistance to relatives of the victims who wish to attend the trial. They will also be given free accommodation.



A column of Bosnian Serb prisoners of war, watched by Swedish members of Nato's implementation force, walk to freedom and waiting relatives. The 109 captives were released by the Bosnian Government just before a midnight deadline on Saturday. Earlier, delays in freeing the prisoners brought threats that

## Serb captives walk to freedom

further stalling by the formerly warring parties in Bosnia would be met by sharp international sanctions. In a statement issued yesterday, Lieutenant General Sir Michael Walker, the commander of Nato

ground forces in Bosnia, said he welcomed the release but could not consider it a "full compliance" until all prisoners were freed. The men released on Saturday night were taken 30 miles from their Tuzla jail

to a checkpoint near Gracanica, Bosnia-Herzegovina. Almost all the group were captured in the dying weeks of the war last autumn. At the Gracanica bridge, Laurent Fellay, a Red Cross representative, said he expected further prisoner releases in the coming hours and days, but declined to give any details. (AP)

## Iraqi poll of vetted candidates 'a farce'

BY CHRISTOPHER WALKER, MIDDLE EAST CORRESPONDENT

OPPONENTS of President Saddam Hussein of Iraq dismissed yesterday's parliamentary elections, the first held in his country since 1959, as a farce.

"It is impossible to hold a free and fair election in a climate of fear, oppression and censorship," said Ahmad Chalabi, chairman of the London-based group the Iraqi National Congress. "In Iraq there is no freedom of speech, no political parties, no right of assembly, no free press and no independent judiciary."

All 689 candidates, including "independents" running for the 220 seats in the rubber-stamp National Assembly, had to be approved by a government screening committee, and all had to be declared supporters of the 1968 coup which brought the

Iraqi dictator's wing of the Baath party to power.

The poll has come as Iraq attempts to work out a deal with the United Nations to sell limited amounts of oil in order to buy food and medicine. Hopes in Baghdad that a campaign led by France and Russia to lift sanctions would succeed were set back by the President's ruthless disposal of his two defecting sons-in-law and UN revelations this month that 16 Scud missiles, some possibly equipped with chemical warheads, remain unaccounted for.

The Iraqi National Congress last night demanded "suffrage for all Iraqis". The group added: "This cannot take place until the instruments of terror are dismantled and Saddam himself is removed."

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Starting today, a week-long guide to help you to chart your child's progress through the national curriculum

# Why national tests are so important

It is a truism that we live in an information-rich society and that information is power. But getting the right information to the right people can be difficult, as can helping them interpret it in the right way.

Providing parents with useful, easy-to-interpret information about how their children are doing in school was a key reason for introducing national tests for seven, 11 and 14-year-olds. At the end of the current school year the parents of all these children will, for the first time, receive information which shows how they are performing in relation to national standards in English and mathematics and, at ages 11 and 14, in science. They will also be given separate results based on teachers' assessments of each child's work.

Parents will learn, for example, that 42 per cent of pupils nationally obtained Level 4 in English at age 11 — the level expected of a typical child of that age — that 7 per cent obtained Level 5 and above, and that 45 per cent obtained Level 3 and below. In addition, they will be told how their child is doing in relation to average performance at the school and how the school's performance compares with national averages.

Nick Tate explains the benefits for pupils and their parents, for teachers and schools, and for the whole country



All this information is useful to parents for three reasons: as a record of how their child is performing in relation to a standard measure; as a way of identifying their child's strengths and weaknesses, so helping them in the next stage of their learning; and so that, where they have a choice of schools, parents can exercise this in as informed a way as possible.

But it is not just parents who are getting value from the tests. Detailed marking of answers can show children how they are performing in the different elements of a subject. The tests also give public recognition to what they have achieved. They motivate them by giving them something to aim for. There is little evidence that children are intimidated by the tests. Most appear to rise to the

occasion and even enjoy being the centre of attention. School attendance among 14-year-olds during the test weeks in May is invariably higher than at any other point during the year.

The tests also provide teachers with information which helps them to improve the quality of their teaching. The results often reveal things that teachers did not know — in some cases, it is just that the information is not being extracted or used. Where the information is particularly useful is in showing schools how well they are doing with certain groups of pupils or aspects of subjects. The results are a powerful management tool for head teachers, who are able to see at a glance how different classes are performing in relation to each other, how levels of attainment

vary across subjects and between boys and girls, and how the school's performance compares with performance nationally and with its results in previous years.

For example, one school, whose gap between boys' and girls' performance in English was much greater than the national average, is now experimenting with single-sex teaching and reviewing the kinds of texts used as a way of stimulating greater interest among boys.

Finally, the tests will enable us to make judgments about whether national levels of attainment are rising or falling, especially in the key areas of literacy and numeracy. It will be possible to set targets for national performance in the same way we have done at ages 19 and 21.

The tests are now an established part of the annual rhythm of schools. Last year was the first in which virtually all seven, 11 and 14-year-olds took part. We need the same high level of participation this year if we are to obtain maximum benefit for pupils, for their parents, for teachers and schools, and for the country as a whole.

*The author is the chief executive of the School Curriculum and Assessment Authority.*



Pupils at Audenshaw High School, Manchester, begin their national curriculum test

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## Calculators to be outlawed

ELEVEN-year-olds will all have to take a mathematics paper without the aid of a calculator in one of the main changes to the format of this year's tests. David Charter writes.

Worries about the ability of children to perform mental arithmetic brought the change and may well lead to calculators being banished in both maths papers at Key Stage 2 next year.

Maths papers for 11-year-olds will also be ten minutes longer after complaints from teachers that even the best pupils were struggling to finish last year. The number of questions and their overall level of difficulty will be the same, but the children will have 45 minutes.

Science questions for 11-year-olds will be more demanding, especially towards the end of the papers. A spokesman for the School Curriculum and Assessment Authority said it intended "a substantial increase in difficulty for the most challenging questions". The time allowed remains 35 minutes, although there are more questions this year.

At Stage 3, the 14-year-olds are to have their English tests on two separate days and will have an extra 15 minutes for the extension paper. In maths, the first two papers will be held on the same day. The extension paper for English is reduced by 30 minutes to an hour.

## Pupils find their Level

The top two levels of the tests have been dropped this year, although in practice very few 14-year-olds reached the dizzy heights of Level 9 or 10 in previous years.

These two levels corresponded to an A grade and a starred A grade at GCSE, something most 16-year-olds would be pleased to achieve.

National curriculum tests have been designed so the typical child progresses by a level every two years, starting with Level 1 at the age of five.

Seven-year-olds whose scores in their English and mathematics tests fall below the achievement expected of the average five-year-old will simply be recorded as "working towards" Level 1.

The tests assess the work carried out in each of the first three key stages of the national curriculum.

The typical seven-year-old should be at Level 2, the typical 11-year-old at Level 4, and the typical 14-year-old at Level 5 or 6, since the test

comes midway between expected levels.

Papers are tiered for older children so they take tests suitable for their own aptitude and teachers will decide which ones they sit. For example in maths for 14-year-olds, there are four alternative levels 4 to 6, 5 to 7 and 6 to 8. A child thought to be at about Level 5 will be entered for the Level 4 to 6 paper.

All children can take optional extension papers to try to raise their level of achievement. Seven-year-olds can simply take papers designed for 11-year-olds, while the 11-year-olds can try for Level 6 by taking half-hour papers in science or maths and an hour-long paper in English.

The 14-year-olds who excel in any of the hour-long extension papers, reaching beyond Level 8, will be given written recognition of their exceptional performance.

DAVID CHARTER

Year	Subject	Time	Level
7	English	35 min	1-3
7	Maths	35 min	1-3
11	English	35 min	4-6
11	Maths	45 min	4-6
11	Science	35 min	4-6
14	English	35 min	7-9
14	Maths	45 min	7-9
14	Science	35 min	7-9







# ARTS THE WEEK AHEAD

**■ VISUAL ART**  
**Charles Saatchi's** gallery shows a new selection of rising young American artists  
 OPEN: Now  
 REVIEW: Tomorrow

**■ DANCE**  
**Waiting for** Charming: Michael Corder's version of *Cinderella* comes to the Coliseum  
 OPENS: Tonight  
 REVIEW: Wednesday

**■ MUSIC**  
**Andrew Davis leads** the BBC Symphony Orchestra through Takemitsu at the Festival Hall  
 CONCERT: Tomorrow  
 REVIEW: Thursday

**■ THEATRE**  
**At the Queen's Theatre**, Michael Ball turns on the *Passion* in Sondheim's musical  
 OPENS: Tomorrow  
 REVIEW: Thursday

## Hearts lost in dreams

THE title of this short, intense piece sounds like a quotation, and, at a guess, the item being proffered is friendship. However, this is to side with Miriam, who sits in her north London bed, dreaming of being loved by Peter, who has the room below. Since Peter is gay, the best she can hope for is to be his good friend, and in this she succeeds, until he meets Craig.

We do not meet this muscular demigod, but he must satisfy enough of Peter's masochistic longings because the play ends with the two men living together, and Miriam back with her daydreams. Written by Graeme Messer and Claire Basel, who are also the two performers, the work is in part a meditation on fantasy, and, when seen from Peter's point of view, it may be that fantasy kisses are valued more than the real kind.

The focus shifts between Messer and Basel, in her room, in his, on the stairs of a gay disco, and beneath an

### More Than Kisses Riverside Studios

erotic bridge that is Peter's special place. We hear just one anecdote about his dead father but we can relate to it his compulsion to abase himself and to worship big strong boots. Miriam's fantasy world excludes her childhood, but when Peter becomes her love-object, she rapturously pictures him as her lover, and in one scene he imagines her as his loving mother. They sleep in each other's arms.

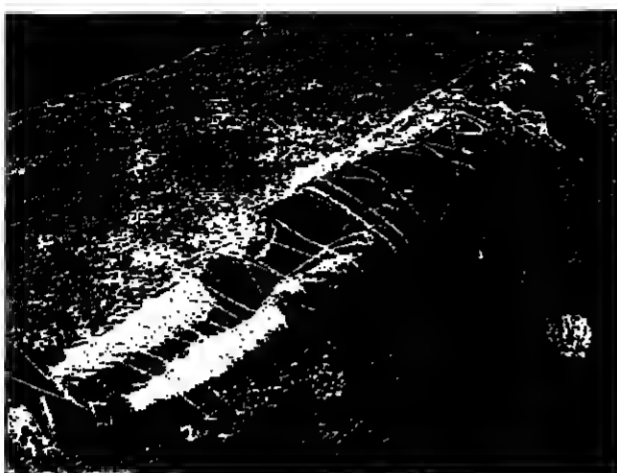
Staging is simple, and the light from the naked, low-wattage bulbs overhead is a fine creator of mood (lighting by Ian Scott); likewise Philip Miller's edgy music.

The language combines grave formality from Basel's Miriam, haunted with wonder, and more devious utterances from Messer's Peter. He has a nervy little smile and a careful politeness of manner with her, but in his room the secrets of his heart hurtle out in a paean of adoration containing submission and aggression in equal measure. It's a sad, passionate, even humorous glimpse at lives brought together by chance and separated by desire.

JEREMY KINGSTON

Twice, Duncan Kenworthy has proved Hollywood wrong. Sue Summers reports

# Two weddings, no funeral



Ted Danson gives televisual appeal to *Gulliver's Travels*

When you have just produced the most successful film in British cinema history, you might be forgiven for thinking that the industry's money-men would be falling over themselves to back whatever follow-up project you cared to name. But such has not been the experience of Duncan Kenworthy, whose very first venture into large-screen production was *Four Weddings and a Funeral*.

In 1994, at the very moment when *Four Weddings* was hitting the heights at the American box office, Kenworthy found himself in a windswept car park in Land's End, listening to his American agent on his portable phone.

"Your script is dead in Hollywood," the agent told him. "Forget it — nobody wants to do it." The trouble was that Kenworthy's follow-up to *Four Weddings* was not another romantic comedy confirming America's most deeply held opinions of the dotty English. It was the greatest and most lethal satire in the English language, Jonathan Swift's *Gulliver's Travels*, a book whose title is known to everyone — even some Hollywood executives — but which is nowadays almost never read in its sprawling entirety.

The cosy, small scale of *Four Weddings* had no place in Kenworthy's vision of *Gulliver's Travels*. He proposed not just the usual comic book version of *Gulliver* and the tiny Lilliputians or the giant Brobdingnagians, but an ad-



Duncan Kenworthy has a short but sweet producer's CV: *Four Weddings and Gulliver*

aptation of the whole work, including the later, lesser-known encounters with the Flying Island, the Winims and Yahoos, the Sorcerer and the Struldbruggs. The script, by Simon Moore, had been commissioned seven years earlier, and Kenworthy had amassed two filing cabinets full of rejections. Still, he was hoping that the success of *Four Weddings* might moderate the attitude of his agent, who had said he would rather have root canal work than read the script of *Gulliver* ever again. "I never lose my temper, but when he told me to drop it, something flipped," Kenworthy says. "I said to him, 'Four Weddings cost \$4.5 million and to date it's grossed \$250 million. Nobody wanted to do it, and your agency told me it would never work in America. But it's a big success, and what's happened? Hugh Grant can greenlight any film he wants. But what happens to the producer? He gets told his script is dead. What do you have to do to get some credibility?'"

There is no formula for success in my field.

## Cool charge of static electricity

IF AMERICA still has its Big Five orchestras, the Cleveland Orchestra is definitely among them — and pretty high in the pecking order, too. Its concert at the Festival Hall on Thursday night, under music director Christoph von Dohnányi, was one of the highlights of the London International Orchestral Season.

The concert opened with a typically adventurous piece of programming: Ligeti's *Atmosphères*, followed without a break by the Prelude to Act I of Wagner's *Lohengrin*. This is a gambit that Dohnányi has worked before, and to good effect, for both pieces trade in stasis — or the illusion of it. *Atmosphères* evokes immobility by the paradoxical means of tiny, intricate movements: the *Lohengrin* Prelude, which depicts the mystic descent of the Holy Grail, achieves its stillness through more conventional sustained tones, though the texture is a good deal more complex than it sounds to the innocent ear.

Both pieces pose considerable problems of ensemble, and though the Clevelanders are not flawless in this department, they do play extraordinarily well together in a broader sense. Over the dozen years of his directorship, Dohnányi has welded the various sections of the orchestra into a refined and sensitive instrument.

Those qualities were displayed admirably in the remaining two works: Schumann's Symphony No 1 (*Spring*) and Stravinsky's *Firebird* music (given complete). Dohnányi has long given the lie to the notion of Schumann's "muddy" scoring, and here again he showed how a conductor with a good ear can make those textures homogeneous and buoyant rather than thick and turgid.

The *Firebird* score is a gift for an orchestra such as the Cleveland, with star players in its ranks who can still meld well in ensemble. The sheer inventiveness and mastery of Stravinsky's Rimsky-influenced orchestration never ceases to astonish, and his exotic palette of colours was vibrantly exploited.

The danger is that surface brilliance becomes an end in itself, and all four items in the programme seemed to me to be characterised by a certain aloofness. But coolness is all part of Dohnányi's charm, and there is no doubting the fact that it draws inordinately cultivated, high-class playing from the Clevelanders.

BARRY MILLINGTON

### A guide to the best available recordings, presented in conjunction with Radio 3

**DEBUSSY'S 24 PRELUDES BY BRYCE MORRISON**  
 With characteristic ambition, Debussy aimed to "express the inexpressible" in his 24 Preludes. He also wished to write music "for an instrument without hammers", to subdue and transcend the piano's percussive limitations.

He would, I feel, have felt disconcerted by several of today's recordings of the Preludes, particularly those by compatriots who, hardened by overfamiliarity, substitute a generalised mezzo forte for those myriad shades of pianissimo which lie at the very heart of Debussian fantasy and caprice. No one, however, could accuse Claudio Arrau of such indifference. For him every note is worth its weight in gold. Michelangeli (on DG) was capable of the finest Debussy, but he could show an icy disdain for many of the composer's most revealing intimacies. Krystian Zimerman (DG), while hardly less pianistically impetuous, is infinitely more caring. On the other hand, his gleaming sonority and pinpoint definition can at times be aggressive. Martino

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Does Kenworthy's career to date not demonstrate a quite extraordinary gift for anticipating public taste? Modest to a degree hitherto unknown in the film world, the pale, thin Kenworthy goes positively ashen at this invitation to blow his own trumpet. "I'm not going to be talked into that," he says. "I think I've been lucky. There is no formula for success in my field. There'd be a lot of very happy producers around if there were."

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Astronomers search for the legacy of Einstein

Universal waves

THE search for the most elusive of Einstein's legacies is gathering speed. With the aid of a new £1 million grant from the Particle Physics and Astronomy Research Council, British and German astronomers have begun building one of four detectors around the world designed to pick up gravitational waves, produced by some of the universe's most spectacular events.



SCIENCE BRIEFING Nigel Hawkes

by small changes in the interference patterns formed by the reflected laser light.

Each leg of the GEO600 instrument is 600 metres long, making it considerably smaller than the two LIGO detectors in America, each of which is 4km long. But GEO600 will be the first to operate first at design sensitivity and has sophisticated instrumentation that could enable it to be the first to make a detection.

In practice, to be sure that the event is real and not a tremor or an instrument failure, more than one instrument is needed. If the same event is recorded at

Exploding stars, black holes swallowing each other, rotating neutron stars and the Big Bang itself are all believed to convert huge amounts of energy into gravitational waves. These waves, first postulated by Einstein's general theory of relativity in 1916, are assumed to sweep unseen and undetected through the universe, passing easily through matter.

The effect of a passing wave is so slight as to be virtually undetectable. In the GEO600 instrument being built near Hanover, the movement will be picked up by an instrument consisting of two tubes at right angles to one another, each a near-perfect vacuum and with the world's best mirrors at each end to reflect laser light to and fro along the arms.

When a gravitational wave arrives, it will alter the length of one of the arms relative to the other, by a distance that is a small fraction of the diameter of the nucleus of a single atom. The movement will be detected

the same time by GEO600, the two LIGO instruments, and a fourth detector being built by the French and Italians. It is reasonably sure to be a gravitational wave.

The British teams involved come from the Universities of Glasgow and Wales at Cardiff, and are collaborating with two German groups, at the University of Hanover and the Albert Einstein Institute in Potsdam. Professor Bernard Schutz, who directs both the Cardiff and Potsdam groups, says: "The first detection of gravitational waves will be a momentous event for physics. But the real payoff will be the insight they give us into what is happening in parts of the universe that only gravitational waves give us any chance of seeing."

There's a number to remember



TODAY'S copy of The Times carries a number with profound resonances for those who think in systems other than decimal. The fact that we have reached issue number 65,536 may seem unremarkable, save as evidence of an exceedingly long life. But in binary notation, the language spoken by computers, 65,536 is written as 1 0000 0000 0000.

Binary notation, of course, is based on the number two. In familiar decimal notation, each digit reading from the right represents a value ten times greater; in binary, the factor is two. So the binary number of today's issue can be read, from the right, as no twos, no fours, no eights, no 16s, and so on... until finally we get one digit, which represents two to the power of 16—or 65,536 to you and me.

I am indebted to David Charlesworth, a computer specialist from Woking, for pointing out the significance of today's number. "Since The Times is a technologically orientated paper you will already have spotted it," he wrote rather flatteringly. But I'm sorry to admit that without his intervention it would have entirely passed me by. He says it is emblazoned on his mind from programming the IBM PC, which uses a 16-bit address.

Fish probe for human genes



AN 18-INCH Japanese fish that can blow itself up into a spiky ball is proving useful to Glaxo Wellcome scientists searching for the human genes responsible for migraine and other diseases.

The puffer fish — Takifugu rubripes, or fugu for short — has genes very like those of man, but more densely packed. The fugu genome is about 75 times smaller than ours, largely because the fish carries much less "junk" DNA — the bits that lie between the genes and have no apparent purpose.

The beauty of this, says Dr Mike Trower, is that they can take markers linked to disease genes in man and use them as probes to find the corresponding markers in fugu. Since there will be less intervening material between the marker and the gene in fugu, it will be easier to locate the gene than it is in man. Then they can use the fugu gene as a probe to pin down the site of the corresponding human gene.

So far, they have used the fish to map part of human chromosome 14, which is linked to early-onset Alzheimer's disease. They have found three genes linked in the same order in fugu as in man — but occurring along a length of DNA which is 50 times shorter. This has made it possible to slash the time needed to map the genes.



It's good to talk... an example of female networking, from the film A Day to Remember. Two thirds of conversations are about social topics

When men and women gather together, the men often steer the talk towards work, religion or politics. Yet when men talk to men, or women to women, these subjects hardly get a look-in.

What is going on? Professor Robin Dunbar of Liverpool University, the author of a new book on language, sees the process as a vocal "lek". Animals such as antelopes or birds — including peacocks — pose and preen themselves in display areas called leks in an attempt to attract mates.

The females wander from one male to another, inspecting the goods on offer, and making their choice. Much the same process is going on around the dinner table as the men compete to present their

The evolution of gossip

views on John Major's leadership with all the flourish of a peacock displaying his tail. That's males all over: lekking is in their genes.

What men talk about is another clue. Studies of the content of conversations made by Professor Dunbar's group show that both sexes spend about two thirds of the time talking about social topics — gossiping, to put it bluntly. But while women tend to gossip about other people's social experiences, men gossip mainly about their own.

The women are engaged in networking, the men in advertising," says Professor Dunbar. This difference, he believes, sheds light on the very origin of language itself. He began his research as an expert on primates, the group to which Homo sapiens belongs. If you measure the brain size of different primates, as Richard Byrne and Andrew Whiten of St Andrews University did, you find that the size of the neocortex is closely correlated with the size of the groups in which the animals normally congregate. The larger the groups, the larger the neocortex.

"Primates who live in

Language evolved not to make men more effective hunters, but so that their wives could gossip

groups need to solve complex social problems," Professor Dunbar explains. "They spend a lot of time grooming each other. This seems to be the main mechanism for bonding primate groups together. It cements alliances and makes them possible."

But there is a problem. The larger the group becomes, the more time is needed for grooming to keep everybody's relationships in order. In baboons and chimpanzees, which typically form groups of about 50 to 55 individuals, the time spent in grooming is high.

If human beings, with their bigger brains and bigger social groups, were to cement their relationships in the same way, a whopping 40 per cent of their time would be spent in grooming, leaving perilously little left for feeding, travelling and other vital activities. "No primate group that has ever been studied spends more than 20 per cent of the time grooming," Professor Dunbar says. "That seems to be the upper limit."

Enter language, a far more efficient way of oiling the social wheels than grooming. In the "social brain" hypothe-

sis which Professor Dunbar champions, language evolved not to make men more effective hunters, but so that their wives could gossip. "Our ancestors could not have evolved without a new mechanism for grooming — and that was language," he says.

Language has certain key features that enable it to function in this way, he argues. You can talk to several people at once, while you can groom only one. It can also convey a lot more information.

"If the main function of grooming for monkeys and apes is to build up trust and personal knowledge of allies, then language has an added advantage," he writes in his new book, Grooming, Gossip and the Evolution of Language. "It allows you to say a great deal about yourself, your likes and dislikes, the kind of person you are; it also allows you to convey in numerous subtle ways something about your reliability as an ally and a friend."

This analysis of the origins of language may seem rather a comedown compared with earlier claims that it evolved to aid hunting ("there's a herd of bison down by the lake") or to exchange stories about the origin of the tribe or supernatural forces. But the way we use language today seems to back it up.

In both men and women, two thirds of conversations are not about BSE, the state of the economy or other important matters, but about social interaction. "This shows that these things are terribly important in real life, although we disparage them as gossip," he says.

But language did not come free. It requires a huge chunk of the brain to make it work, with a very high energy cost. The only way to save that energy was by reducing the size of the gut. Studies of a wide range of primates show that brain and gut are inversely related: big gut, small brain, and vice versa.

But to manage with a smaller gut, man had to find a food rich enough to provide the necessary energy without needing endless yards of intestine to digest it. This was meat. If so, man's carnivorous nature is intimately bound up with his command of language.

So, it would seem, is the size of the social group in which people function best. Plotting brain size against group size for primates, it appears that the best natural group for

humans is about 150. This, says Professor Dunbar, fits in pretty well with human experience. "It is a typical village size in traditional societies, it is the size of the smallest military unit, the company, in most armies, and it is also roughly the number of people most of us send Christmas cards to, if you remember that most cards go to families, not individuals."

Of course, in modern societies people live in much larger groups than this, millions-strong if they live in cities. "But 150 is about the number of people we all know well enough to join uninvited in a bar, or ask a favour of without embarrassment," he says. "It is also roughly the number of living descendants you would expect a couple to have produced after four generations at the birth rates observed in peasant societies."

Religious communities also converge on this magic number. The Hutterites of North America have communities that are always split into two when they reach 150; larger than that, they say, and it becomes difficult to control members by peer pressure.

The problem with modern communities, Professor Dunbar argues, is that as they grow much larger than this ideal number it becomes harder for people to see why they should continue paying their

dues. "Free-riders" or "social cheaters" are the bane of such communities; people who exploit other people's willingness to conform.

In the short term, it often pays to cheat. Who hasn't parked on a double yellow line, despite knowing that keeping the road clear of parked cars is in the interest of the community? "People who don't buy their round," in Professor Dunbar's phrase, can cause any society to split up. One of the functions of language, and especially of gossip, is to keep such people in line: though, if so, it doesn't

seem to be doing an especially good job.

The answer, he suggests at the end of his book, may be to recognise that we evolved to flourish in much smaller groups than we experience today. Fortunately, our behaviour is capable of adaptation. Recognising human limitations and how they can be circumvented, if necessary by recreating the kinds of social environment in which we function best, could make the world seem a less alienating place, he concludes.

● Grooming, Gossip and the Evolution of Language is published by Faber on April 1 (£15.99).

The women are engaged in social networking, while the men are simply advertising themselves

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# Why America loves our Emma

Emma Thompson will know tonight if she has won another Oscar to join the one she already keeps in her downstairs loo. The chances are good, since she has been nominated in two categories for *Sense and Sensibility* — but even if she misses out it will be nothing personal.

As the Oscars remind her almost every year, in America she is among friends. At a book signing she gave in Los Angeles to promote her screenplay for *Sense and Sensibility*, first-edition collectors turned up at the crack of dawn.

By lunchtime, a queue of 600 admirers snaked its way round the block. The manager said only Colin Powell would have drawn a bigger crowd.

When she missed a prize at Cannes last year for her title role in *Carrington*, one of the country's most respected critics said his personal consolation was that "no prize is good enough for her". And when *People* magazine voted her one of the world's 50 most beautiful people, its editors threw in for good measure Christopher Reeve's opinion that she combined the "humour and style of Katharine Hepburn and the artistic integrity of Vanessa Redgrave".

This is not Sharon Stone or Meryl Streep. It is our Emma, the head-girlish former *Footlight* with the imperfect nose and the expressive top lip, who bombed eight years ago with a television comedy series.

Thompson is still mocked in Britain as a luvvie and a frump and a smug one at that. Yet on her every trip to America she is showered with flattery and accolades. She is revered as one of the finest actresses of her generation, beloved as a personality.

She is also considered sexy — not just because she is English and a movie star. Why else would *Vanity Fair* persuade her to be photographed more *décolletée* than Sharon Stone herself?

In 1993, she won her first acting Oscar for her role as Margaret Schlegel in *Howard's End*. She was nominated twice the following year, for *The Remains of the Day* and *In the Name of the Father*. Tonight she stands to win two more gold statues — one for her screenplay, the other for her performance as Elinor Dashwood. Such adoration has a way of making people feel welcome. We should not be surprised if, sooner or later, she considers joining her fellow expats in the hills of Southern California.

Not long after her success with *Howard's End*, Thompson agreed to an interview

**As the film world prepares for another orgy of self-congratulation, Giles Whittell investigates an unlikely romance**

with the comedian Robbie Coltrane. In it he mentioned a *Sunday Times* article deriding her comfy Hampstead socialism and her tendency to be gushingly nice about other actors — the defining characteristic of a luvvie.

Coltrane muttered that perhaps Emma didn't want to talk about it, but Emma was happy to explain that "it's sort of a national characteristic



Thompson with her Oscar in 1993

among the British to take the piss out of any public figure who offers the slightest excuse. This is true, of course. We love taking people down a peg or two, especially those born with more than their fair share of natural advantages."

But we also hate being made to squirm. She made us do this with *Thompson*. Her stunningly pretentious one-woman comedy series in 1988 was so unfunny one had to assume its star was bored with praise (for her work in *Fortunes of War* and *Look Back in Anger*) and wanted some punishment instead.

The tabloids duly invited her to roll up her "smug, self-regarding sketches" about sexism and semantics, and "stick them up her baggy boiler suit". The wider public was not much more impressed. Ratings were dreadful and the series died after its first short season.

Thompson went on to tell Coltrane that Britain was a

country "where they admire failure". If so, her series ought to have made her an overnight sensation. In fact we kicked her when she was down, sneering that the comeback she launched the following year as Lady Anne in *Henry V* was all thanks to its star, her new husband, Kenneth Branagh.

The truth is not that we admire her failure but that we envy her success. How could an ordinary-looking woman who walks and talks not unlike the rest of us win so much fame and money from doing just that? That she is an avowed blue-stocking — not hip, nor dangerously self-destructive — only makes it worse. Why her?

One could moan about her now-defunct marriage to Ken, and about the cliquishness of their joint efforts, from *Much Ado About Nothing* to *Peter's Friends*. But what really rankles her fellow Brits is her global bankability and the way she makes it look so easy. It is not easy. If it were we would all be making millions letting the camera dance over our nuanced, Merchant Ivory expressions. Deep down, we know this. Deep down, we know she has a lucrative talent for acting that the rest of us lack.

In America, of such qualities are heroes made. Talented, successful people are put on pedestals to be emulated or at least admired, and are left there until brought down by scandal or prolonged bad form. The cult of celebrity immunises them from excessive scrutiny of their private lives and politics unless they court it, and so far Thompson (unlike Hugh Grant) has not. Neither has failure toppled her.

It helps that *Thompson* — the series — was never shown in America. It is also true that her peculiarly earthy English wit can seem pungent and exotic in the multiplexes of the Midwest but not at all at home.

Thus can *Ladies Home Journal* enthuse that "sitting in front of a spectacular sunset at the Four Seasons Hotel in Beverly Hills, [Thompson] is a vision of classic beauty". In *Sense and Sensibility*, Stanley Kaufman writes in *The New Republic*, she is "a magnificent acting talent" whose "power of inner transformation is so acute as to be almost uncanny". According to *Time* magazine she is simply "dear Ms Thompson".



Up for the Oscar again: in America Emma Thompson is a sexy superstar — in Britain she has not altogether lived down her reputation as a smug luvvie

Thompson has a good chance of being one of those individuals again this year. Should she win, even Fleet Street might decide the time is right for a gruff but very British reconciliation. Thompson herself would not be surprised. As she said recently: "I have a rather strange, familiar relationship with the press in England. They're like very, very grumpy parents."

Both of the Mandelas deserve our sympathy, says Tunku Varadarajan

## We should pity Winnie, too

All the world was in court with Nelson Mandela last week as he squelched through a messy divorce from Winnie, his wife for 38 years. There was no contest in it: everyone's Desert Island statesman versus a convicted kidnapper, a proven adulteress, a vulgar spend-thrift, a one-time advocate of the "necklace".

Saint versus sinner, said the more polished headlines. Nelson free from Evil Winnie, yapped the tabloids. But isn't the story more complex than that? Are we right to detest Winnie Mandela as freely as we do?

There can be no argument with the view that Mr Mandela is "good" and Mrs Mandela "bad". Yet his greatness and her decline are not unrelated. When Mr Mandela married Norzama Winnie Madikizela in June 1958, Winnie's father gave warning that their marriage "in such difficult" times would be unremotely tested. It was to prove to be a merciless trial.

Mr Mandela loved his wife. Take these words from *Long Walk to Freedom*, his autobiography published in 1994: "Her spirit, her passion, her youth, her courage, her willfulness. I felt all of these things the moment I first saw her." But only four years after their wedding, Mr Mandela was imprisoned for "treason": he was released, in one of the most compelling moments of our time, 27 years later. If those years were grim, they were equally dark for his wife.

At the trial on Tuesday, Mr Mandela said something that must not go unchallenged. To his wife's contention that she had suffered and "sacrificed everything for their marriage", he countered coldly that "there were many women in this country who suffered far more". This is not true. Winnie was hounded like no other South African. She had married a man who had "become a myth" — to use Mr Mandela's words — and no trick was spared to break her



Freedom from years in jail... and from Winnie

spirit. In the end that spirit was broken, but not in the way the authorities intended. The persecution drained her of humanity, putting in its place a bitterness that found expression in vengeance. "The struggle" became an alibi for every crime, "the struggle" became the cheerless drug of the Mother of the Nation.

The nobility of her husband may have put her on the path of evil, but it was a path on which she chose to stay. Mr Mandela has understood this all along, holding himself responsible for the onset of her moral rot, but unwilling to accept the ugliness of Winnie's hubris. When he looked at her in court once it was as if to say: Winnie, you have lost the gift

of self-disgust, and for that I must divorce you. He will be a less lonely man now. His imprisonment to Winnie — an imprisonment to the pains of his conscience — has ended. There can be no loneliness greater than that of a loveless marriage.

The Old Man will now enter one void as he leaves another. "I cannot say for certain if there is such a thing as love at first sight, but I do know that the moment I first glimpsed Winnie Norzama, I knew that I wanted to have her as my wife." He saw her first at a bus stop in Johannesburg: he divorced her nearly 40 years later in the same city. One is relieved, now, at Mr Mandela's freedom. But is it so wrong to feel sorry for Winnie?

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### Matthew Parris



He caught my eye, then he caught me catching his eye. Has anyone looked into this eye-catching subject?

How do we know another person is looking at us? Before shrugging your shoulders and replying that we can see if they are, think for a moment what a remarkable perception it is, the perception that someone (or something) has caught your eye. It is unique amongst perceptions. You can "see" (for instance) a field, or a street or a cat crossing the street towards you. But to say that you see the cat looking at you describes a visual picture which differs only in the tiniest respect from the visual picture in which the same cat is not looking at you. The difference between these two pictures consists of one thing only: the precise location within the cat's eyes of the irises and pupils.

Between the scene in which the approaching cat is looking at you and the scene in which it is not, there are absolutely no other differences. Yet any child attempting a "spot the difference" competition in a magazine would light immediately on this discrepancy, while he might search in vain for a much bigger one — such as the appearance in one picture of a chimney, absent from the other picture.

If research were conducted, it would show that on viewing a scene we go quickly to the eyes of any living creature within it, making an urgent and very, very precise judgment about the position of the irises with respect to the rim of the socket within which they sit. How precise? Well, try standing shoulder to shoulder with someone and facing a third person 17 yards away. The person at a distance would not need to move his head, only his eyes, to look from one of you to the other. Which of you is he looking at? It is amazing from how great a distance we can judge this. I have tried some simple experiments over the weekend, and established that in a good light 17 yards is roughly the distance within which this judgment can be made with accuracy.

By means of a rough test I have established, too, that, standing in the middle of a square room, facing one wall and keeping your head still you can just about focus, "from the corner of your eye", on someone in both corners of the room, to your left and your right. The sweep, of about 90 degrees, is the approximate foveal range. Two people measure about a yard across, shoulder to shoulder. I think this means that without moving his head, a man can encompass a visual sweep through an arch of some 25 people, standing shoulder to shoulder 17 yards away, and each one of them can

Amateur research shows that at 17 yards the human eye can distinguish 300 positions of the iris

How it is achieved I cannot say. Why it is achieved is obvious. A moment's reflection on Darwinian principles of survival suggests that, for both the hunter and the hunted, to know, quickly, whether one is being observed must be critical. Life depends on it. This may explain the absolutely gripping nature of the sensation that someone is looking at us. Indeed, unless we are talking to one another (in which case eye-contact is expected), the knowledge that one is being looked at distracts us in so subsversive a way that it is hard to concentrate on anything else.

To watch someone who does not know that he is being watched brings an almost primal feeling of personal advantage. To be watched, we know not why, profoundly undermines. To suspect we are being watched without being able to prove it (as any paranoid will tell you) devastates.

And to exchange glances — to experience the sensation of looking at another as he or she looks at you — must be, in any category of familiar human moments, one of the most basic: it can be of spine-tingling power. Two fine calculators, rapidly and unconsciously accomplished, by two brains, as to the precise locations within four tiny white spaces of four, brown, blue, green or hazel dots with black pinpricks in the middle. "He caught my eye."



It's Desperate Dan — he's turned vegetarian

The species barrier may not protect us completely, but this disease may have existed for centuries

Diseases come and go, and their history is obscure. There is still controversy over the real cause of the Plague of Athens, despite its importance to the history of the ancient world; we know that syphilis was epidemic at the Siege of Naples in the 1490s, but cannot be certain whether it was taken to America by Columbus in 1492, or brought back from there; we do not even know for sure whether, as seems likely, the HIV virus crossed the species barrier from monkey to man. We should, however, make the general assumption that diseases have a long history, and exist for centuries before they are accurately identified. Of course, diseases do transmute and can become much milder, or more dangerous.

The dictionary seems to suggest that BSE itself may always have existed among cattle. Since the 16th century, a disease, or a group of diseases, known as "the staggers" have been recorded. The Oxford English Dictionary defines "staggers" as "a name for various diseases affecting domestic animals, of which a staggering gait is a symptom". The first citation is from 1577, "if he [a bullock] has the staggers, he wyl looke very red about the eyes". The mid-19th-century veterinary writer W.C.C. Martin, in his book *Ox*, refers to "inflammation of the brain, phreny, mad staggers or sough and apoplexy".

"Staggers" appears in Samuel Johnson's great Dictionary of 1755, though he calls it "a kind of horse apoplexy", he quotes Shakespeare, "his horse stark boiled with the staggers". No doubt the Oxford Dictionary is right that the staggers were symptomatic of various diseases, but nevertheless it seems probable that BSE was one of them, and existed as a rare disease in cattle, as Creutzfeldt-Jakob disease has been in human beings, for a long time. The comparable disease in sheep, scrapie, has of course been much more common, and is more freely trans-

mitted between sheep. Pasture land can become infected with the scrapie agent, but there is no evidence of cross-infection of this sort by the BSE agent, which passes either by eating infected material or possibly by breeding from infected cattle.

The point is not merely an academic one. No one can prove that the "mad staggers" was the same as "mad cow" disease, but in some cases it probably was. If that is so, human beings have been eating BSE-infected animals for hundreds of years. If the BSE agent easily crossed the species barrier and infected humans, one would expect there to have been many clusters of Creutzfeldt-Jakob, in families and even in whole villages which had consumed the same infected carcass. In pre-20th-century medicine the condition could not have been precisely diagnosed, but the clusters themselves would have been remarked upon — it might well have been thought that this was a hereditary disease, concentrated on particular families and communities.

In Somerset it is in any case widely believed that the present epidemic did not start in the mid 1980s, but some years earlier. There is anecdotal evidence of cows suffering from what would now be diagnosed as BSE in the late 1970s, and these cases were not confined to the West Country. No one knows what the latency period of Creutzfeldt-Jakob disease is in human beings. Most infections which have a long latency period, such as syphilis or AIDS, have a very variable one — the onset of full-blown AIDS

after the initial HIV infection certainly varies from less than three to more than 20 years. If BSE-infected cattle from the early stages of the present epidemic were being eaten, wholly without precautions, by human beings as long as 20 years ago, then one would expect a human epidemic to be only too evident by now, if human beings were highly susceptible. There were only 40 cases of Creutzfeldt-Jakob in 1995.

The ten cases which have changed the view that BSE is most unlikely to

Jakob in New Guinea. That was caused by cannibalism. Until the mid 1980s, cattle were being fed the meat of other cattle in their protein feeds. They were at the same time being fed sheep protein, which in some cases would inevitably have contained the scrapie agent. The rapid spread of the epidemic suggests that it is rather more likely to have been an indigenous cattle disease than a cross-species sheep disease. Cows have historically been able to crop scrapie-infected pastures quite safely, where sheep become infected. The infection of some zoo animals, cats and possibly the ten human beings, does suggest that the BSE agent may be able in some cases to cross the species barrier; nevertheless, the history of the disease, probably existing in sporadic form for centuries, and in epidemic form for 20 years, suggests that the exposure of substantial human populations to the BSE agent, it seems likely that the species barrier is still a substantial safeguard, even if it proves not to have been a perfect one.

Nevertheless, people will feel safe eating beef only when the whole British herd is BSE-free. These ten cases have raised a doubt, and no one can be sure whether the human epidemic will prove non-existent, tiny, as it has been so far, small, as it has been with cats, or larger. If the cross-species infection reached the same level in human beings as in cats, the deaths

from Creutzfeldt-Jakob disease might rise from about the present 50 spontaneous cases to about 200 cases a year, or something on that scale.

The experience of local farms in Somerset seems to support the view that the animal feed was responsible for the epidemic. A small local dairy farm has always bred its own cows and grown its own feed: it has not had a single case of infection. Another somewhat larger farm used to buy in some feed: early in the epidemic it had three cases of BSE, all in cows which had eaten feed from a single delivery. This farm too has decided to rely entirely on home-grown feed, and has had no recurrence of the disease. As I understand it, there have been no cases of BSE on organic farms, except among bought-in cattle. It is safe to say that nobody will ever again try to turn herbivorous cows into cannibal carnivores.

The Government ought now to concentrate on producing a BSE-free national herd as quickly as possible. Only when that has been achieved will other countries be willing to import British beef, or will British consumers feel entirely safe in buying it. The evidence is that much the largest reservoir of BSE infection is among the older dairy cows. A policy of culling them, with full compensation and not necessarily all at once, followed by post-mortem examinations to establish whether they were showing early symptoms of the disease, could speed the ending of the epidemic. That at least ought to be done.

At the same time, disease-free herds should be identified. No doubt there has been evasion and some downright lying — otherwise a policy of separating the disease-free from the high-risk herds would be straightforward. Yet the Government's objectives should be those that commonsense suggests. First we need to establish beyond doubt which herds are already clear. Then we need to establish that the epidemic is over, and that Britain is clear of BSE.

# Let's not all go mad about BSE

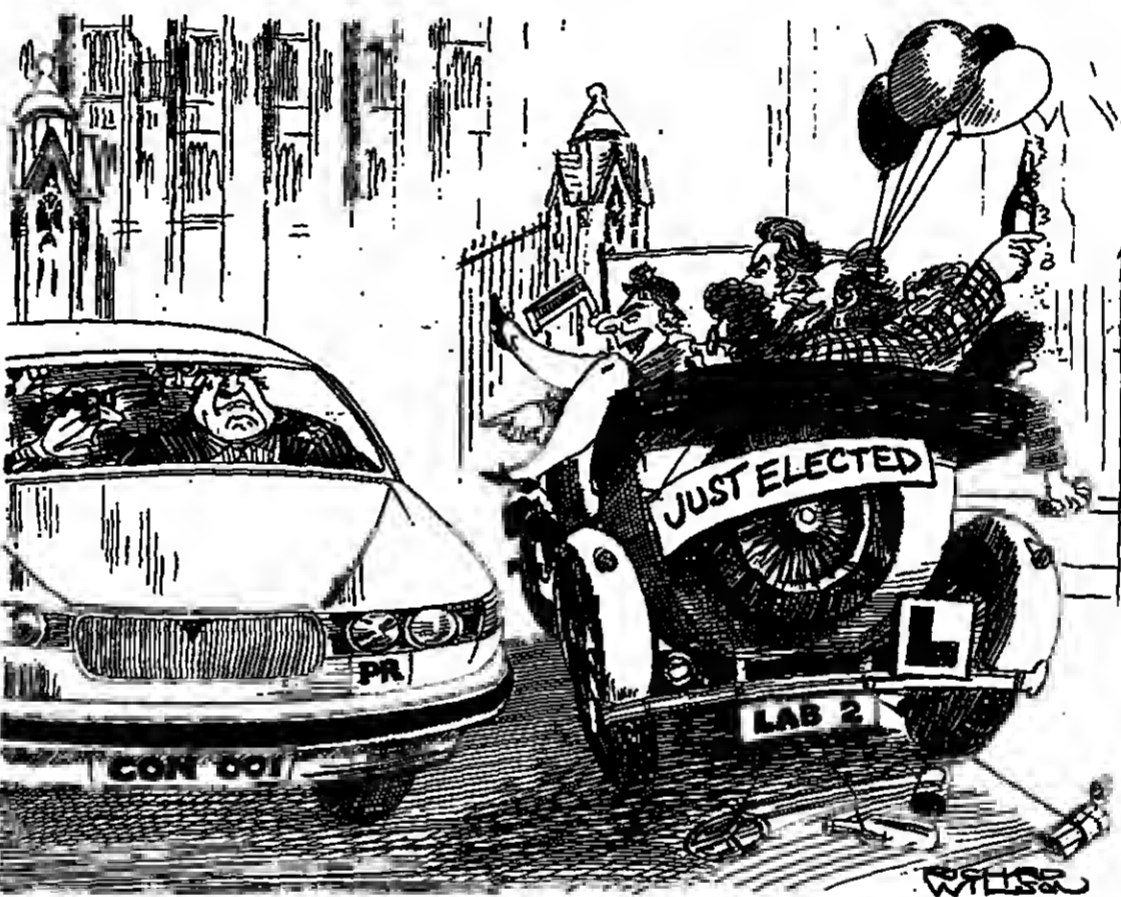
William Rees-Mogg

Infected human beings are paralleled by a small epidemic in cats, although there does not seem to have been a comparable epidemic in dogs, which must also have eaten their share of BSE-infected meat and offal. The cat epidemic has been a small one — fewer than 200 infected cats seem to have been reported — and is now rapidly trailing off, with about one case a month. The epidemic in cattle itself is also now past its peak, though the total numbers have been much larger, and the epidemic has persisted longer than was originally expected.

I suspect that the cat epidemic may eventually prove to be similar to the recorded epidemic of Creutzfeldt-

# The ins and outs of power

Peter Riddell on the prospects for a Parliament without true commoners



After the next election, the typical new Tory MP will be a male former special adviser or a minister, with Euro-sceptic views. The new Labour MP, for the first time, as likely to be female as male, and will have strong local connections and broadly Tory instincts. The new Tories will have been trained to serve in government, while the new Labour members will have almost no knowledge of Whitehall. So the rival groups of new MPs will be prepared for precisely the opposite of what each is likely to face.

The look of the post-election Commons is becoming clear. The vast majority of candidates to replace retiring MPs, to fight winnable marginals and in the new seats created by boundary changes have already been picked. Further retirements and selections will not alter the pattern shown by a new analysis from the Public Policy Unit, a political consultancy. This has been prepared by Andrew Lansley, former head of the Conservative Research Department and now candidate for Cambridgeshire South; David Gardner, who masterminded Labour's successful handling of the boundary changes; and Paul Wheeler, Labour's former elections co-ordinator. If Labour gets the 4.3 per cent switch of votes from the Tories since the 1992 election that it needs for a bare overall majority, there will be at least 149 new MPs, a quarter of the Commons. This would include 84 new Labour MPs and 55 new Tories.

A third of the new arrivals, and half the new Labour members, will be women. Labour's defeat in the courts over all-women shortlists makes little difference. But there may be only four new women Tory MPs, roughly matching retirements. The total number of women MPs is likely to rise to well over 100, compared with 62 now and as few as 19 after the 1979 election. The feminisation of the Commons, particularly on the Labour side, is already making it less of a male-dominated club — reinforcing the changes in its working hours and practices. In that respect, it is becoming more representative of the electorate as a whole.

But in other crucial ways the Commons is becoming less representative. Not only are fewer and fewer working-class people being elected, but more and more new MPs are already full-time politicians, whether as special advisers, political researchers or consultants, full-time councillors or union officials. The shift I identified in my 1993 book *Honest Opportunism* has accelerated. Of the roughly 50 new candidates picked in seats which the Tories would retain if Labour won a bare overall majority, half are already professional politicians. This includes ten former special advisers or members of the Downing Street policy unit, three former heads of department at Conservative Central Office and ten former MPs. Three of the four women are already career politicians (a member of the European Parliament, a former MEP and a former special adviser).

professional politicians in the way that half the Tories are, but many more work in local government or in self-employed jobs which allow them to pursue their primary interest of becoming MPs. On this broader definition, at least half of the new Labour MPs will be career politicians.

The ideological impact is harder to assess. In part because most candidates and MPs do not have firm, or any, party consistent views. Few local parties set an ideological test in selections. Plausibility is more important than policy. One jaundiced veteran said local activists wanted to hear their bourgeois, or petty-bourgeois, prejudices articulated in a respectable way. Assaults on the liberal establishment are applauded, as are assertions of traditional Tory values on the family, law and order and taxes. Advocating more privatisation and similar radicalism goes down less well. None of this is any guide as to how future MPs will behave, with the crucial exception of European issues. Many knights (pro-Europeans of the Heath generation are being replaced by Euro-sceptics).

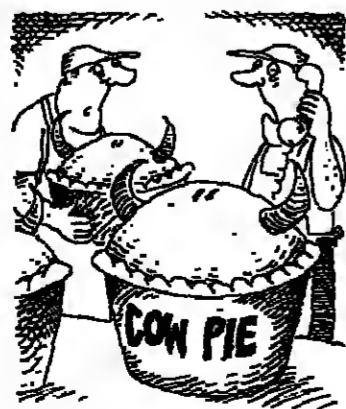
On the Labour side, the Public Policy Unit reckons that most of the future MPs are likely to be loyalist, as most of the 1992 intake who won Tory marginals have been. They have backed Mr Blair's "new" Labour approach because it has worked for them. There may be only two obvious recruits to the hard Left in winnable seats (Ann Cryer, widow of the former MP, in Keighley, and John McDonnell in Hayes and Harlington). Many others may, of course, be going along with the prevailing Labour fashion, and their "old" loyalist sympathies, particularly over the public sector, might surface later. As important as guessing the new ideological shape of the Commons is the further advance of the career politician. Despite pledges about recruiting more candidates with broader experience, the British political class is becoming narrower — and apart from the growing number of women MPs, less representative of the electorate as a whole. This will do nothing to check the public's growing disillusionment with Parliament.

## Pole position

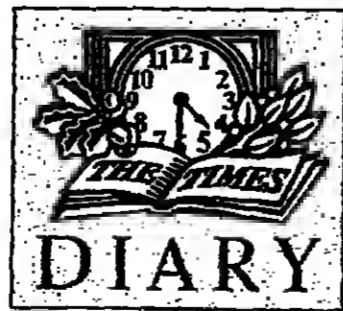
POLISH aristocrats in London cannot contain themselves at the prospect of the Queen's visit today to their homeland. They are lobbying once more for a king of their own, and proposing the Duke of Kent as their candidate — and I understand that he has been brushing up on his Polish.

usually effusive, proves bashful about the Duke. She refuses to breathe a word concerning her noble client and potential monarch.

Last week, I reported that the ageing crooner David Bowie had bought a smart house in Chelsea. Now he is to be joined by the pop



It's Desperate Dan — he's turned vegetarian



pensioner Bill Wyman, whose pied à terre in Upper Cheyne Row is said to have cost a mere £2.5 million. Decorators are on standby with waterbeds and ceiling mirrors.

### Iveagh league

THE CHATTERING classes of Hampstead are appalled by events at Kenwood House, an English Heritage property which boasts a Vermeer in its art collection. When the house reopened yesterday, after a ten-day spring-clean, a cry went up that the bust and portrait of the 1st Lord Iveagh, a decent chap who bequeathed the house and its contents to the nation in 1927, had disappeared. English Heritage lackeys tried

desperately to weather the storm, explaining that the items had been moved to another room upstairs. But the rooms transpires to be little more than a staff annexe, rarely visited by the public. Friends of Kenwood now dread the truly gruesome prospect of the missing bust being replaced by one of Jocelyn Stevens, pugnant chairman of English Heritage.

### Tsk, tsk

FARMERS wondering what to do with their cows may care to spare a thought for Tony Edwards of Hull, who is intent on disposing of a herd of life-sized, pink plastic elephants. Mr Edwards had hoped to embellish the roof of his children's entertainment centre with the elephants, which he bought second-hand for £5,000. But town planners have refused permission for his adornments, so he is parting with them, as well as with six giant frogs and two 14ft spacemen.

Despite escaping serious censure at the hands of his Leominster constituents, the platinum-blond Tony Peter Temple-Morris has a new sobriquet, as a result of his flirtation with new Labour. Once regarded

fondly by Tory colleagues as the "silver fox", he is now dismissed as the "silver rat".

### Princely sum

TIGGY LEGGE-BOURKE appears to have prevailed upon her boss for a little assistance with an art show at the family home in Powys. On Easter Day and Easter



Getting in a Tiggy

Monday, her mother, Margaret, will invite the milling hordes into her home in Crickhowell to see works of art by the likes of David Shepherd and John Ward. But pride of place at the exhibition, to raise money for the Royal Welsh Show, will be given to a watercolour by the Prince of Wales. "It's not for sale," says Margaret, "but we'll take sealed bids for one of his lithographs."

### Natal lot

CHIEF Mangosutho Buthelezi has turned to Britain for help. The head of the Inkatha Freedom Party has looked up the high priest of Westminster's political lobbyists, Ian Greer, for assistance with his local election campaign. Along with Brendan Bruce, Margaret Thatcher's former director of communications, and James Pryor, one-time head of presentation at Central Office, Greer has been electioneering in KwaZulu/Natal. Speaking from Durban, he admits that he is unused to South African politics: "At a public meeting in Britain you might expect 15 to turn up, but here we have to cater for an audience of 25,000." Buthelezi is expected to address the final



Buthelezi in mufti

campaign rally on the eve of polling day. A mere 300,000 people are expected to attend, some of whom will walk for up to five days for the privilege of witnessing Greer and Bruce in traditional Zulu costume. Bener be good.

P.H.S

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## FOOD FOR THOUGHT

Government should regulate farming, not run it

A heavy burden rests on the Health Secretary's shoulders today. The decision by the hamburger chain McDonald's to abandon British beef and the suggestion, however speculative, that BSE may have spread to lamb, or even pasture, have made Stephen Dorrell's task of calming public opinion all the more difficult. Mr Dorrell will be well supplied with scientific evidence when he faces the House of Commons this afternoon to make a statement on BSE, but almost more precious than data and statistical speculation will be wisdom, proportion and a preparedness to see the State in future be less the manager and more the watchman.

Mr Dorrell should place the threat to health in perspective. The real madness would be to succumb to hysteria. If BSE has led directly to Creutzfeldt-Jakob disease in human beings then victims are likely already to be infected. Steps taken since 1989 have lessened the risk of infection spreading through the food chain. There is a demand now for the banging shut of gates long after the bull has bolted. Instead, a judicious assessment of what risk remains should be combined with a cooler look at the future of our food industry. That review should consider the conflict inherent in the Government's role as guardian of the nation's health and under-writer of the farmer's wealth.

It would be wrong to underplay the importance of further appropriate safety measures, but attempts to reduce a risk already mitigated by prudent action should not be interpreted as a validation of the fears provoked by the most inflammatory. A balance must be struck between acting, quickly and transparently, to identify and isolate what proven danger there is and preventing an indiscriminate collapse of confidence in all British beef. The Agriculture Minister, Douglas Hogg, appeared to accept such logic yesterday by acknowledging that the selective slaughter of older cattle may be necessary to minimise danger while stressing how small was the risk from most British beef.

McDonald's reaction, whatever its merits, at least displays the flexibility of capitalism at its rawest. The market can be a crude judge of sensitive questions but, ultimately, it does better than the most enlightened or efficient bureaucracy by devolving responsibility down to the consumer. Nevertheless, markets work effectively only when the consumer has a fair knowledge of the risks involved in any transaction. The Government's capacity to be believed when it wisely, attempts to allay the more febrile reaction to food safety scares is undermined by its own entanglement in the management of agriculture.

Farming is, in effect, the last great nationalised industry. There are good reasons why any government should be wary of exposing it to the chillier blasts of competition. A measure of support may always be necessary to ensure the rural environment is thoughtfully cultivated. But massive intervention in agriculture, from Whitehall and Brussels, has created a culture of insulated prices and subsidy-driven development which has not always been in the best interests of consumer or countryside. Moreover, the perception that the Ministry of Agriculture is over-zealous to protect producers has weakened the whole Government's capacity to speak with authority when seeking to allay concern.

Tobacco is a far greater risk to health than beef, but its sale and consumption among adults, quite rightly, continues because the market supplies and the State warns. The preposterous complexities of Europe's common agricultural policy will make any withdrawal of government from intervening in the food business a slow, and complex, affair. But the market is already working to reward farmers who rear and butcher their meat in impeccable conditions. When public concern teeters on the edge of panic it is hard to take the long view but ministers should recognise that food scares can be better handled in future only by a clearer division of responsibility. The warning word is better heeded when it comes from those who trust to the invisible hand.

## RIGHT AND MACKAY

The Lord Chancellor deserves support on divorce

Divorce is bad for children. They are twice as likely to have psychological problems as those whose parents have stayed together. They are likely to leave school earlier with fewer qualifications, to marry and have children earlier, to end up in a lower social class, and, most poignantly, to divorce themselves. Where children are involved, society should not allow divorce to be easy and, where break-up cannot be avoided, should try to mitigate its effects.

Today the Family Law Bill has its second reading in the House of Commons. Some MPs seem to be under the misapprehension that Lord Mackay of Clashfern, the Lord Chancellor, is a dangerous radical, and that his Bill will offer an instant divorce upon receipt of a stamped addressed envelope. The characterisation of this pious Presbyterian as the enemy of family values is a bizarre misreading of the man. Indeed, the Lord Chancellor avowed in a recent interview that, if he could be granted one wish, it would be for all marriages to last happily ever after.

Unfortunately, fairy-tales bear all too little resemblance to real life. What the framers of any divorce law have to accept is that making divorce punitively hard does not ensure that marriages will last forever. On the contrary, it deters couples from marrying at all. The Lord Chancellor has sensibly opted for a middle way. His Bill will make three quarters of couples wait longer for their divorce than they do now. And, as far as possible, it aims to reduce conflict — which is the best way of minimising the harm that divorce tends to do to children.

First the Bill removes the notion of fault which, under current legislation, serves no

purpose other than to shorten to a matter of months the time taken for a divorce to be granted. The "unreasonable behaviour" that husbands and wives cite as ground for divorce can take in such trivial matters as cutting toenails in the bath or spending too long on the telephone. No burden of proof is required; and allegations from one side are often matched by the other. This crescendo of accusation and counter-accusation, frequently encouraged by lawyers, tends only to turn what could have remained relatively amicable relationships into thoroughly acrimonious ones.

Secondly, the Bill encourages couples to use mediation rather than the courts to settle disputes over money, property and children. This too tends to dampen rather than fan the flames of conflict. Research shows that, in divorces settled by mediation, the children are more likely to remain in contact with both parents. Moreover, under the new proposals, agreement will have to be reached on the division of property and the care of children before a judge will grant a divorce.

Nobody pretends that the new Bill will eliminate family breakdown altogether. No law could do so, as failed marriages are caused by individuals and cannot be prevented by the State. But in the majority of cases it will make so-called "divorce on demand" more difficult to achieve. Couples will have to wait longer, think harder, and contemplate the cold realities of life post-divorce before, not after, a decree is granted. If any marriages are saved by this period of reflection, the Bill will have been worthwhile. It is a humane and civilised measure, which deserves to be turned into law.

## TAKING THE PROFIT

Middle Britain is in rude good health at Leamington Spa

The middle classes have always been this country's steadiest element. Today they are also its commercial backbone, and most heartening proof of their utility to Britain now comes from Leamington Spa. As we report in the Business section, a survey has found that the town, hitherto known mainly for its elegant flavour of Victorian waters, has surged to the head of a competitive commercial table. More than any other town in the land, Leamington Spa is home to the highest proportion of profit-making businesses, with an ample garnish of service and manufacturing companies.

Although it has never suffered from anonymity — its waters have always acted as an antidote to that ailment — Leamington Spa has tended to be a self-effacing place. Lacking the aplomb of a Tunbridge Wells or the strut of a Cheltenham — to name two of the struts of which it has been often, and places with which it has been often, and unflatteringly, compared — this quiet Warwickshire spa town has preferred always to accompany Britain's evolution than to attempt to lead it.

Attitudes to Leamington Spa — which reflected, no doubt, earlier attitudes to Middle Britain — have not always been appreciative of its charms. "Oh! Chintzy, chintzy cheeriness! Half dead and half alive!" wrote John Bejemen in one of his very early poems.

Death in Leamington. John Ruskin once likened the town to "the first practical scene of a pantomime... before the business begins." (A literary footnote of interest to readers: it was here that he wrote *The King of the Golden River*, for Effie Gray, the woman who so startled him on their wedding night.)

There is more. Nathaniel Hawthorne, unkindly, described it as a place of "somewhat unreal finery", "built with malice aforethought as a place of gentility". He was being a snob, of course, and taking a dig at the new middle classes of the Industrial Revolution. Leamington Spa, in Hawthorne's time, was where mildly-moneyed folk went to cure themselves of over-eating and TB. After Queen Victoria died, Leamington Spa became a synonym simply for quiet respectability.

Yet Leamington Spa today finds itself at the top table: there is dosh, clearly, in delicacy, diligence and quiet invention. Its rise to commercial recognition should be reassuring to Modern Britons, force-fed for too long on tales of "industrial decline". Wealth can be created as effectively in lace-curtained middle-class homes as it was once curdled in smoke-filled factories and darkened mines. This is the true message from Leamington Spa.

The Rev Philip Need, Chaplain to the Bishop of Chelmsford; to be

The Rev Leonard Pepper, Team Vicar, High Wycombe Team Ministry (Oxford); to retire March 31.

# LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN Telephone 0171-782 5000

## Identifying and compensating for risks posed by BSE

From Mr Oliver Thorold

Sir, Sooner or later compensation to the tune of billions of pounds will doubtless be paid to farming and commercial interests affected by "mad cow" disease.

When recent human health disasters have followed major errors of public health policy — contaminated blood products for haemophiliacs and human growth hormone come to mind — no prompt offer of compensation was made to those most directly affected, the victims and their families. They therefore resorted to litigation.

A predictable process follows. A legal action group obtains legal aid, but members of the action group ineligible for legal aid have to accept daunting financial anxiety. Protracted scientific investigation is carried out. Complex pleadings are exchanged in which duties of care are denied, scientific contentions resisted, and causation is often improbably disputed.

With the haemophilia litigation, a settlement was eventually reached, driven as much by political embarrassment and media pressure as legal merits. The same may well occur with the human growth hormone litigation. What should always have been a political decision is shown to have been inappropriately assigned to the legal process, embittering the families of the victims and enriching the legal profession for no good purpose.

With BSE and CJD, unless there is prompt acknowledgement of the justice of compensating victims and families, litigation will follow. Those who contract the disease, and their families, cannot be expected to see their claims resisted while the economic losses of the food industry are compensated. Life is surely more important than livelihood.

Yours etc,  
OLIVER THOROLD,  
Doughty Street Chambers,  
11 Doughty Street, WC1,  
March 22.

From Ms Eleanor Rylance

Sir, The blame for the BSE catastrophe must lie squarely on the public's shoulders for refusing to be interested in what they and their families are eating, and on the British obsession with cheap food.

I grew up in France, where no such obsession exists, and people will gladly pay more for better food. I am pleased to hear that France has had all imports of British beef (reports and leading article, March 22; also see letters, same day); maybe this will make the British farming community take note.

Yours faithfully,  
ELEANOR RYLANCE,  
Finemount Lodge,  
Finemount Road, Camberley, Surrey,  
March 21.

From Mr John Pettegree

Sir, As a herdsman having complete responsibility for 150 cows, I have had to confront BSE in a responsible manner for some five years. I could not in conscience do otherwise, although the procedure is inconvenient, producing full records of the sick animal's family and requiring me to accommodate the suspected animal for some months before the symptoms are sufficient to obtain confirmation from the MAFF vets.

There are no diagnostic tests available — purely changes in character, behaviour and mobility which have to be identified first by the herdsman. These may not be apparent to a stranger for some time, even if that person is a MAFF vet.

An immediate clear line must be drawn to start restoring national and international confidence in the British beef industry. This can be achieved in the first instance by making it an offence to dispose of any cattle born before June 1990 to any party other than MAFF. Most of these will be cull cows, born in the pre-1990 "grey" period, and it will be the Government's

responsibility to ensure that they do not enter the food chain in any form other than fertiliser.

This measure should establish some rationalisation of a fraught situation without destroying the national dairy herd, which because of recent quality and welfare pressures will be approaching elite status by January 1997.

It will also avoid squandering precious national resources better used on the unfortunate victims of bovine-induced CJD and into researching the neutralising of the agent (or prion) threatening a generation.

Yours faithfully,  
JOHN PETTEGREE,  
2 New Cottages, Parkside Farm,  
Bishops Sutton,  
Nr Alresford, Hampshire,  
March 22.

From Mr I. J. Kemény

Sir, The weekend's headline story seemed not to affect the choices made by our diners.

Saturday night's score was: 6 per cent lamb, 8 per cent vegetarian, 9 per cent fish, 30 per cent poultry, 47 per cent beef.

Oh, the unflappable British.

Yours faithfully,  
I. J. KEMENY,  
(Chief proprietor),  
Kings Restaurant,  
Mount Road,  
Hinckley, Leicestershire,  
March 24.

From Mr Derek Nimmo

Sir, We celebrate one hundred years at this address in May this year. What are we to do? Call ourselves the Lamb Chop Club?

Yours faithfully,  
DEREK NIMMO,  
Beckstak Club,  
9 Irving Street,  
Leicester Square, WC2,  
March 22.

## Glory of the garden

From the President of the Garden History Society

Sir, William Rees-Mogg's article, "A poet rudely great" (March 21), pleads eloquently for Alexander Pope as one of our greatest poets, following the announcement (Diary, March 20) that his famous grotto, embedded in what remains of his Twickenham villa, is now up for sale.

Pope was a great gardener as well as poet; his neat, polished couplets have the force of proverbs: "fools rush in where angels fear to tread"; "A little learning is a dangerous thing." In the same way, his landscaping pronouncements became rallying cries for those laying out country estates: "Consult the Genius of the Place in all"; "let Nature never be forgot".

Pope's idea of designing landscape in harmony with nature, as a means of refreshing the human spirit, was the inspiration, not only of 18th-century landscape gardening, but also of the public parks movement in the next century and much of today's landscape architecture.

There could be no better use for the present St Catherine's Convent than as a study centre for literature and landscape in celebration of a world-famous poet-gardener.

Yours sincerely,  
MAVIS BATEY, President,  
The Garden History Society,  
77 Cowcross Street, EC1,  
March 22.

## Woody Allen's jazz

From Mr Jack Sudic

Sir, Despite your rather strange review of the Woody Allen concert at the Festival Hall (Arts, March 20), it was thoroughly enjoyed by more than 3,000 people who were there.

Woody Allen is a very good clarinetist in the New Orleans style and was playing with some world-class musicians who were only there because his name ensured the concert would be a sell-out. This has been an outstanding contribution to jazz in Britain and let's hope that Woody Allen and his band are invited back again for the many people who couldn't get in to see them this time.

Yours etc,  
JACK SUDIC (Honorary Secretary,  
BBC Jazz Society),  
48B The Market Place,  
Hamstead Garden Suburb, NW11,  
March 20.

## No Smoking Day

From Mr S. P. L. Kennedy

Sir, Why should children persuading parents to give up smoking (letters, March 14, 19, 22) be described as "emotional blackmail"?

I used to be a light smoker. One evening, as I indulged in my last cigarette of the day, my son, then 11, said: "Dad, give it up; it's not good for you." I thought rapidly and replied: "OK, provided you never smoke." He never has — and I have been a satisfied non-smoker for 25 years.

Yours faithfully,  
PATRICK KENNEDY,  
Panfields,  
Denne Park, Horsham, West Sussex.

Letters for publication may be faxed to 0171-782 5046.

## Fishing limits

From Mr Robin Teverson, MEP for Cornwall and West Plymouth (Liberal and Democratic Reformist (Liberal Democrat))

Sir, Your reports of March 18 and 19 of the visit to Newlyn by Fisheries Commissioner Emma Bonino are accurate: both sides took it as an opportunity for some straight talking. But I can report that the outcome of her visit was more positive than you suggest.

Signora Bonino came to Newlyn at my invitation, and I am glad to say that before she went away she gave me three clear promises. In addition to legal advice on how to stamp out the quota hoppers, which you report, she also promised to explore ways of using south-western waters as a pilot area for regionalisation of the common fisheries policy.

Liberal Democrats have been press-

ing for this for years — we believe that it could overcome national rivalries within the CFP — and this concession is a reward for our persistence.

Finally, Signora Bonino also said that she would bring forward proposals to the EU member states to extend the 12-mile limit of national control beyond the year 2002, when it is currently due to expire. This is the first assurance anyone has had that this will happen — if it doesn't then the CFP could stretch right up to the high-water mark.

Fishermen were predictably angry with Signora Bonino on a variety of issues. Whether she lives up to her promises will determine whether that anger shrinks or grows.

Yours faithfully,  
ROBIN TEVERSON,  
Newton Farm, Metherell,  
Callington, Cornwall,  
March 19.

## Dangerous dogs

From Mrs J. B. Dobson

Sir, Your leading article, "Dogs of war" (March 20), written in the aftermath of the attack on six-year-old Michael Swain by a bull-mastiff, refers briefly to the Dangerous Dogs Act 1991. Parliament is currently considering reforms of that Act, all of them framed from the perspective of pro-dog interests, but there is no prospect that the outcome will provide better protection for the public.

In reforming the Act, our legislators face some genuine difficulties. Firstly, while some breeds are manifestly more dangerous than others, it is often difficult to determine to which breed a particular animal belongs. Secondly, most dog-bite incidents involve dogs that are for most of the time well behaved or simply not in the dangerous categories defined by the Act.

We believe that the Act should remain in place for the time being, but that it is the wrong starting point in any strategy for protecting the public. What is needed is a national dog registration scheme that would define the breed of any dog and identify its owner. "Borderline" breed questions could be settled in advance of any incidents and owners would take more care, knowing they could more readily be

held responsible for their dog's behaviour.

The Government has consistently rejected dog registration as being "costly, ineffectual and bureaucratic". The real reason for its inaction, I believe, is deference to the dog interests.

Yours faithfully,  
J. B. DOBSON,  
(Honorary Secretary),  
Canine Crisis Council,  
PO Box 76, Leicester, LE5 1EJ,  
March 20.

From Mrs A. Jinks

Sir, I write to express concern at the emotive reference in your leading article to the "urgent need for more stringent rules on the ownership and control of vicious breeds of dogs".

If the Dangerous Dogs Act were to be reviewed, any "urgency" involved should be strictly balanced by careful consideration and extensive consultation, so as to avoid imposing a further piece of messy and misguided legislation on a largely innocent sector of the public. The current Act has already done much unjustified damage to owners and dogs and we do not want this perpetuated.

Yours faithfully,  
A. JINKS,  
The Bungalow, Thurlaston, Leicester,  
March 21.

## Curse of Glencoe

From Mr John Campbell-Kease, FSA Scot

Sir, I doubt Mr Eadie's suggestion (letter, March 16) that the "curse of Scotland" may originate as a reference to the coat of arms of the Earl of Stair.

The charges in the first quarter of the earl's arms are, technically, lozenges (the word "diamonds" being unknown in this context) and are tintured or not gules — that is gold red. More significantly, they are borne on an azure (blue) saltire — the cross of St Andrew.

Further, the word "curse" can be a corruption of "cross". Brewer's goes so far as to imply that the nine diamonds may be termed "curse" because its elements are arranged in the form of a St Andrew's cross. The subject thus remains open.

Yours truly,  
JOHN CAMPBELL-KEASE,  
8 Ferryfield Road,  
Connel by Oban, Argyll.

## Prison CABs

From Viscountess Runciman

Sir, You reported (News in brief, March 14) that HM Prison White-moor was the first prison to have its own branch of the Citizens Advice Bureau.

Over recent years CAB have taken their services into a number of prisons. The first full-time bureau was set up in Wormwood Scrubs in December 1994, after six years part-time.

Funded by the City Parochial Foundation, it has a team of three paid staff and is an important experiment in making a vital community service available to prisoners on the same terms as other citizens. It gets every support from the prison and since it started work has held over 2,500 interviews with prisoners.

Yours sincerely,  
RUTH RUNCIMAN (Advice worker),  
Kensington Citizens Advice Bureau,  
140 Ladbroke Grove, W10,  
March 20.

## Voluntary code on buried treasures

From Mr C. John Barron

Sir, Sir Nicholas Goodison (letter, March 18) should not be unduly worried about the proposed voluntary code of practice for the reporting of objects of archaeological interest. Too fine a net would result in a mountain of bureaucracy, excessive costs and low benefits.

Mandatory reporting is not justified at this stage because of the good record of the hobby in recent years. The objective must be to encourage an even greater level of reporting by the responsible metal-detecting fraternity such as myself.

An English total of 2,500 single finds of coins of the late 5th to the 11th centuries between 1980 and 1988 compared with France, 32 coins on record; Germany, 144; Sweden 175; and Norway, 33.

I suspect that the figure Sir Nicholas writes of, "400,000 objects of archaeological interest" discovered each year in England and Wales, may be an overestimate, based on a small sample taken in Norfolk (an area high on the list for the quality and quantity of finds) and extrapolated for the whole country. That the bulk of the finds would excite any professional interest is in doubt.

Objects of top quality and coins and artefacts of the Celtic and Saxon periods, the scatter of which provides much information about trade and spheres of influence, should obviously be reported. But what is the historical significance of an isolated Elizabethan half groat found in the middle of a ploughed field, possibly 100 yards from where it slipped from a purse, or a common Roman brooch, discarded when it broke?

Would the minimal increase in archaeological knowledge at county level justify the cost of reporting? I suggest not, though the village museum might be thrilled by the news.

Yours sincerely,  
C. JOHN BARRON,  
Little Haywards Farmhouse,  
Courtlands,  
Haywards Heath, West Sussex,  
March 22.

From Mr C. J. Martin

Sir, Sir Anthony Grant's Bill (report, March 9) is designed, after much consultation with trade organisations and interested bodies, to replace the archaic and unworkable treasure trove law, not to broaden its coverage.

Should this Bill become law it will give clear guidelines to all persons involved in finding or dealing with items containing precious metal and others associated with them.

A discussion document issued by the Department of National Heritage on portable antiquities offers hope of a workable voluntary code for the reporting of finds. Any legislation to make non-reporting an offence would prove unworkable.

It will prove far more rewarding to record and investigate the more significant finds that may be voluntarily reported, and where possible acquire these for public institutions, than to try to enact draconian legislation to force a finder to report three musket balls.

Yours faithfully,  
C. J. MARTIN,  
C. J. Martin (Coins) Ltd,  
85 The Vale, Southgate, N14,  
March 22.

## Ups and downs

From the Chief Executive of Tandrige Council

Sir, I was intrigued to read the comment by Andrew Foster, Controller of the Audit Commission ("League tables show councils are complacent about performance", March 21), that "It is not enough to be just average. Everyone can and should improve."

As I understand it, the law of averages does not work like that. If one council were to rise above average, another would have to fall below.

Yours sincerely,  
PHILIP THOMAS,  
Chief Executive,  
Tandrige Council,  
Council Offices,  
Station Road East, Oxted, Surrey,  
March 21.

## Nature's secrets

From Mr Sebastian Robinson

Sir, I was delighted to read Nigel Hawkes's article on March 18 about the recent unexpected discovery of naphthalene in outer space. It brought to mind the story of the American savant (William James, Henry's brother, I think) who kept a notepad and pencil by his bed in case he should be visited by a great idea in the night; he was awakened by a blinding revelation about the nature of the universe, which he noted down.

In the morning he found that he had written "The odor of petroleum permeates everything" — thus inspiring R. P. Lister to write a poem in *The New Yorker* which began:

The universe is golly vast  
And most uncommon fine;  
It whizzes round extremely fast  
And smells of turpentine.

Turpentine, naphthalene, what's the odds?

Yours,  
SEBASTIAN ROBINSON,  
7 Kirklee Gardens, Glasgow,  
March 20.

conditions of energy which is absolutely infinitesimal as compared with what we have things whose nerve centres do not lie deep enough to be shielded from their influence.

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OBITUARIES

CLAUDE BOURDET

Claude Bourdet, wartime Resistance leader and founder of *Observateur* magazine, died in Paris on March 20 aged 86. He was born there on October 28, 1909.

A FORMIDABLE figure of the Left in postwar France, Claude Bourdet dreamed of creating a left-wing party which would be independent of Moscow and Washington. While he never realised his ambition — being thwarted by popular support for the French Communist Party and the recreated Socialist Party of François Mitterrand — Bourdet wielded considerable influence as a journalist.

He pursued his campaigns through the columns of his newspapers, speaking out vigorously against the colonial policies of successive French governments in Indo-China and Algeria. He edited both the daily *Combat*, which he had helped to found during the war as an underground newspaper, and the weekly magazine *Observateur* — later *France Observateur*, which exists today as *Le Nouvel Observateur*, and which is now the best-selling news magazine in France. The latter was seized several times, both under de Gaulle and his predecessors, at the time of the Algerian War in the 1950s. Bourdet was an immensely erudite man, and he would impress British journalists when he visited his country with his stringently phrased observations and his impeccable, accentless English. In France, he was also revered for his distinguished record during the war as a leader of the French Resistance.

Bourdet was the son of a turn-of-the-century playwright named Edouard Bourdet and the poetess Catherine Ptozi. Throughout his life he had independent means and these enabled him to pursue his own path in politics and journalism.

The divorce of his parents affected him deeply and for a while he turned his back on the Parisian artistic scene in which he had been raised. He studied engineering in Zurich and in 1936 joined the staff of the Minister of National Economy in the left-wing Popular Front coalition Government, as an engineering and industrial specialist.

His left-wing Roman Catholic leanings drew him to the Popular Front and to active support of the Republican cause during the Spanish Civil War, although he did not actually fight in Spain. After the Nazi invasion of France in 1940, he became confirmed in his low opinion of traditional politics.

Bourdet was conscripted into the



French Army, and shortly afterwards taken prisoner of war. He escaped from captivity and took over the management of a soap factory in the Alpes-Maritimes, which provided an excellent cover for his Resistance activities. Operating mainly in the south of the country — then still a free zone — he helped to form the *Combat* network along with Henri Frenay, handling the management of *Combat* when Frenay joined General de Gaulle in London. He set up *Combat's* newspaper in 1942.

As the representative of the *Combat* network on the Conseil National de la Résistance, he championed the council's independence and opposed take-over attempts by both the Communists and Gaullists. Eventually, he was arrested by the Gestapo in 1944, interrogated and deported first to Oranienburg concentration camp and then Buchenwald, where he was among those rescued by Allied forces, fortunately having to suffer the horrors of that place for a relatively short time. Back in Paris, he was made a *Compagnon de la Libération*, the highest order for Resistance fighters. As one of the leading left-wing

figures to emerge from the Resistance, it was logical that in 1947 Bourdet should return to *Combat* as Editor. The newspaper had survived the end of hostilities, and was being edited by those early postwar years by Albert Camus, whom Bourdet succeeded. Bourdet took a strong independent line on both home and foreign policies which before long brought him into conflict with Henri Smadja, the businessman who had been called in to solve the newspaper's financial problems. Bourdet resigned in 1950, taking a number of well-known journalists with him, and began planning a political weekly based on Britain's *New Statesman*.

This weekly was launched in 1951 and called *Observateur*, swiftly to be renamed *France Observateur* when it was discovered another publication existed under that title. In his editorials Bourdet lambasted successive French governments over Indo-China and Algeria. His support for Algerian independence and, in particular, a column headed "Your Gestapo in Algeria" — a criticism of French army and police methods — led to his brief arrest in 1956. Bourdet admired Pierre

Mendes-France, probably the most moralistic of French Prime Ministers after the war, but did not refrain from criticising him for not realising early enough the dimension of the Algerian problem. He was also a supporter of Tito after his split with Stalin.

Bourdet's career suffered, perhaps, from devoting equal amounts of time to journalism and politics. Parallel to his work at *France Observateur* and other publications, he was active within splinter left-wing groups hostile to the main Socialist party, the SFIO, throughout the 1950s and 1960s. He was the founder of a movement called *La Nouvelle Gauche*, another called *Union de la Gauche Socialiste*, and later became a militant member of the larger and more influential *Parti Socialiste Unifié* (PSU).

Algerian independence in 1962 led to tensions within the PSU and also at *France Observateur*. Bourdet again resigned and spent some years on the sidelines, reappearing to oppose Mitterrand's efforts to form the new Socialist Party in the early 1970s.

Despite his behind-the-scenes guidance, Bourdet's own political career was limited to seats on the Paris city and regional councils. His influence was as a result restricted to the high moral stance he took in his writings. He had inherited the Catholic Left's opposition to traditional political leaders. In Bourdet's view, Mitterrand fell into this category and he criticised what he considered to be the lack of moral content in the future President's programme.

It was only in the late 1960s that Bourdet returned to national journalism, when he was given a column in *Jeune France*, the influential Catholic weekly which he had helped to publish during the war when he had given it supplies of paper. The tone of his articles was generally "anti-imperialist". He wrote regularly on Third World issues and was a fervent supporter of a Palestinian state. Yet he was not slow to denounce anti-Semitism in France. Last year, he was still writing articles, notably in favour of the Bosnians.

Critics saw a basic contradiction in Bourdet's lifelong attacks on political manoeuvrings and his equally long-held desire to form a party. Generally, however, he was admired for his highly moral conception of politics. He was also one of the more internationally-minded of French journalists.

He was author of several books, including *Le Schisme Yougoslav* (1950), *L'Aventure Incertaine* (1975), which recalled his Resistance days, and his more recent *Mes Batailles* (1993). A widower since the early 1990s, he is survived by two sons and a daughter.

PROFESSOR PETER CLEMOES

Peter Clemoes, Professor of Anglo-Saxon, Cambridge University, 1969-82, died on March 16 aged 76. He was born on January 20, 1920.



WHEN Peter Clemoes began his career shortly after the war, Anglo-Saxon studies were in an uncertain state. The long reign of the great German philologists had been shattered by the war, which had itself cast a shadow over pan-Germanism. New Criticism had begun to suggest different directions for literary studies without being quite sure that there was a space for Anglo-Saxon literature in the new discipline of linguistics had developed language studies in ways which emphasised the modern forms rather than the ancient roots.

When he went to Cambridge as a lecturer in 1961, Clemoes found there the unique mixture of northwest European cultural studies — Anglo-Saxon, Old Norse and early Celtic languages, literature and history — which H. M. Chadwick had founded (cunningly locating it in the Museum of Archaeology and Anthropology to keep it safe from the corrupting influence of English studies).

While Clemoes always supported the Chadwick inheritance, his own instinctive sympathies were with a more learned image of Anglo-Saxon culture, one which focused on manuscripts, art, and the manuscript traditions of Latin and biblical traditions of thought, but was also deeply involved in the English language. It was entirely appropriate that his *festschrift* in 1985 should be called *Learning and Literature in Anglo-Saxon England*.

Peter Alan Martin Clemoes was born in Southend-on-Sea, and educated locally at Brentwood. Originally he hoped to become an actor and won a scholarship to RADA. But the war prevented him from taking this up, and he joined the Royal Corps of Signals instead, serving in Egypt. After the war he resumed his education, studying English at Queen Mary College, London. He graduated in 1950, and followed this with postgraduate work in Anglo-Saxon at King's College, Cambridge. He gained his doctorate in 1956, by which time he was a

research fellow at Reading University. He remained at Reading until 1961, when he joined the department at Cambridge.

Over the next thirty years at Cambridge, Clemoes developed a distinct view of the interrelations of style, thought and language, culminating in a massive and highly personal book on Anglo-Saxon poetry in 1985, while simultaneously continuing his early work on the complex textual history of the writings of *Abbot Aelfric*.

He became Elrington and Bosworth Professor of Anglo-Saxon at Cambridge in 1969 and slowly built around him a department which came to reflect his own image of the discipline, adding Anglo-Latin writings, and palaeography and fostering the links with English Studies which his predecessor Dorothy Whitlock had initiated.

But his attention was especially given to the gradual process of broadening and internationalising the subject, on a different basis from the Germanic philology of the prewar period. In 1963 he began a long stint as general editor of a series of ambitious facsimiles of Anglo-Saxon manuscripts (a Danish project founded as a tribute to Sir Winston Churchill). For these, he commissioned extensive introductions which pushed forward the specialist understanding of manuscripts. In 1972 he launched what

rapidly became the major journal of the subject, *Anglo-Saxon England*. He insisted from the outset that this should cover the full range of culture and history, from poetry to carpentry, in a style of English that all could follow. He presided over the second conference of the International Society of Anglo-Saxonists in 1985, and worked tirelessly at fostering the subject in other countries. He formed especially close links with scholars in Paris, Munich, North America and Japan (the latter being one of the great centres of Anglo-Saxon scholarship).

Finding himself in a profession with more than his fair share of scholarly bickerers, Clemoes retained through all provocations the sweet-tempered and generous character that students came to admire. His dedication to rewriting the contributions of others until they matched his own standards of lucidity was as hard to resist as his pressing invitations to a post-lunch round of bowls in the garden of the college which he loved, Emmanuel.

It was not until some years after his retirement that he was able to devote himself wholly to his own scholarship. On the day he died of a heart attack, he was putting the finishing touches to the edition of *Aelfric* which he had begun forty years ago. Peter Clemoes is survived by his wife Jean and two sons.

COUNT EIGIL KNUTH

Count Eigil Knuth, Danish explorer, archaeologist, sculptor and author, died in Copenhagen on March 12 aged 92. He was born there on August 8, 1903.

FOR explorers this century it has not been easy to find regions untroubled by European foot. The Arctic island of Greenland, its vast ice-bound wastes dwarfing the Western European continent, provided such an exciting opportunity. It was here that Eigil Knuth was to travel, making the first of more than thirty expeditions in 1932, and the last only a year ago. A veteran explorer, he unearthed traces of previously unknown ancient North American Eskimo or Inuit cultures, dating back more than 5,000 years.

Eigil Knuth was a disciple of the great Danish Arctic explorer and ethnologist Knud Rasmussen (1879-1933) and Norway's Fridtjof Nansen (1861-1930), who crossed Greenland in 1888. As a young man, he was inspired to follow the example of these heroes of polar exploration. But he was also an artistic youth and, after graduating from the Danish Academy of Arts in 1924, he spent three years in Italy studying to be a sculptor. He returned home to take part in the Danish National Museum's excavations of 1,000-year-old Viking settlement ruins in west Greenland in 1932 and 1934. In 1935, he participated as an archaeologist in the Courtauld expedition to the east of the island, and the following year crossed



Greenland's vast inland glacier from west to east with the Expedition Française Trans-groenland. It was during the winter of 1936-37 that Knuth, basing himself in Angmagssalik, on the coast of east Greenland, took up sculpture again. He worked on a series of portrait busts of Eskimos which were poetic and sensual in style (and which have recently been donated to the Greenland Home Rule Government). The war prevented Knuth from visiting Greenland for

some years. He spent it in Nazi-occupied Denmark, officially working as an announcer on Danish Radio. Covertly, he also worked in military intelligence for the Danish resistance movement, feeding the Allies with information on German activities by sending coded messages on air. On May 4, 1945, the eve of Denmark's liberation, Knuth was the first Danish voice to be heard broadcasting uncensored on Danish state radio after five bleak years under the Germans.

Two years later, Knuth was leader of the Danish expedition to Peary Land — the northernmost tip of Greenland which had, until Knuth arrived, never seen a ship (all previous visits to the region had been made from the south or west by dog sled). Knuth unearthed stunning evidence of a pre-northern Eskimo presence in northern Greenland. This dated back to two periods known as Independence I and II — between 1,000 and 3,000 BC — embracing the age of a nomadic culture known as the Arctic Small Tool tradition.

In 1972 Knuth oversaw the construction of a landing strip at Cape Moltke in northernmost Peary Land, by the Wendell Sea on the approaches to the North Pole. An expeditionary outpost was set up there. The climax of Knuth's career was the discovery in three four-man summer treks from 1987 to 1989 of the ruins of 520 crude circular dwellings along the coast of the Ile de France off northeast Greenland, which cast new light on primitive Arctic civilisation.

Ile de France, a frozen 140-square-mile outpost with its own ice-cap at a latitude of 77 degrees north, is so called because it was discovered in 1905 by a joint Belgian-French expedition led by Duke Philippe of Orleans (1869-1926), the great-grandson of King Louis Philippe of France. Knuth's own theory about its mysterious site was that it was a coastal colony established by invading Eskimos from both the north and south of Greenland, or perhaps even the

American continent, with an economy based on seal and whale-hunting.

The discovery of the settlements along with a mass of artefacts provided archaeologists with new information on the long-lost 2,800-year-old Dorset sea-ice hunting culture. Traces of this had first been unearthed in 1925 at Cape Dorset on Canada's Baffin Island, across the Davis Strait from Greenland.

The round houses, built in ring formation at the Ile de France site, originally had igloo-type walls of block ice, with flagstones forming a mid-passageway. The tent-like roofs were made of animal hide and the central section of the building was surrounded by adjoining rooms built on stone platforms and intended to house the different generations of a family. Soapstone lamps, fuelled by whale blubber and using near-smokeless Arctic moss as wicks, lit the hovels. Stones heated in a central fireplace were used for cooking. Vessels were made of animal skins. All this was proof of the ingenuity of the Inuit people in surviving in the most inhospitable of environments.

Knuth wrote ten books on his Greenland expeditions including (in English) *Archaeology of the Musk Ox Way* (1967). He received numerous honours from the Danes and the Greenlanders, as well as being awarded the Patron's Medal of the Royal Geographical Society, London, and the Royal Scottish Geographical Society's Mungo Park Medal. Knuth never married.

CHRISTOPHER HEADINGTON

Christopher Headington, composer, pianist and actor, died in a skiing accident at Les Houches, Switzerland, on March 19 aged 65. He was born on April 28, 1930.



Edinburgh. However, a good deal of it remains neglected despite occasional performances on Radio 3.

IN HIS biography of the tenor Peter Pears (published in 1992), Christopher Headington steered a precarious course between describing the often turbulent atmosphere of the Aldeburgh Festival over which Pears and Benjamin Britten presided, and painting a portrait of a man who was both a great singer and a personal friend. But Aldeburgh's sterner critics found the biography disappointing. Headington adroitly ducked controversy, though he did make reference (without comment) to such controversial articles as that in *The Observer* in June 1970, accusing Britten and Pears of holding court at the Suffolk festival. But it was as a composer rather than a writer that Headington excelled. His music sits comfortably alongside that of William Walton, Lennox Berkeley (with whom he studied) and Benjamin Britten himself.

Among his many works are a lyrical violin concerto (premiered by Ralph Holmes in 1959 and recorded four years ago on the ASV label with Xue Wei as soloist), three string quartets, three piano sonatas and a piano concerto, as well as a ballet which was performed in both Paris and

University of Surrey because of the vast amount of administration he feared might be involved. It took the combined efforts of several friends to goad him into completing his research for the several books he published, including *The Orchestra and its Instruments* (1965) and *The Bodley Head History of Western Music* (1974). He was also a regular contributor to *Gramophone* and *Country Life* magazines.

As a pianist, Christopher Headington was talented. He shied away from making too many concert appearances but he released a number of CDs both of 20th-century British piano music and also music of a more romantic nature on the Kingdom label. An extremely private person, Headington moved to Malaga in southern Spain in the late 1970s in order to pursue his composition in peace. This proved disastrous, not only financially but emotionally. Feeling intensely isolated, he returned to Britain to settle instead in Newton Abbot, Devon.

However, as an examiner for the Associated Board he continued to travel extensively. He was a moderately talented linguist and recently was even heard trying out his newly acquired Cantonese on a waiter in a London restaurant. He was also proficient with computers and last year used the new "Sibelius 7" program to map out an entire symphony in a day. He never married.

Appointments

The Rev David Ashforth, Vicar, St Leonard, Baldersone, and Director of Post-Ordination Training, diocese Blackburn, to be also Warden of Readers, same diocese. He will cease to be Director of Post-Ordination Training from August 31. The Rev Simon Brignall, recently returned from South America (ISAMS), to be Team Vicar, Thame Team Ministry with responsibility for Tetworth, Adwell w South Weston, Lewknor and Stoke Talmage w Wheatfield (Oxford). The Rev Alan Cole, Priest-in-Charge, Gamlingay w Hatley St George and East Hadley and Gamlingay Heath (Ely); to be also an Honorary Canon of Ely Cathedral. The Rev Arthur Dean, Assistant Curate (NSM), St Margaret, Eastney; to be stipendiary Priest-in-Charge (half-time), St Albans, Copnor (Portsmouth). The Rev Reg Fosse, Assistant Curate (NSM), Christ Church, Gosport; to be Assistant Curate (NSM), St Mary, Alverstoke (Portsmouth).

Church news

The Rev John Francis, Curate, St John and St George, Preston; to be Rector, Ribblesdale, and Bishop's Adviser for leisure and tourism (Blackburn). The Rev Timothy Gaden; to be Assistant Curate, St Mary, Battersea (Southwark). The Rev Nigel Genders, Assistant Curate, Christ Church, New Malden (Southwark); to be Assistant Curate, Christ Church, Cockfosters (London). The Rev Anthony Hawley, Team Rector, Kirby, Area Dean of Walton and Team Vicar, St Chad, Kirby (Liverpool); to be also an Honorary Canon of Liverpool Cathedral. The Rev John Hindley, Priest-in-Charge, Tibrook w Cwington and Catworth, Bythorn w Keyston, Priest-in-Charge Great Gidding w Little Gidding and Steeple Little Gidding and Rural Dean of Lighthorpe (Ely); to be also an Honorary Canon of Ely Cathedral. The Rev Richard Holroyd, Team

Dean of Bocking (Chelmsford). The Rev Frank Parr, Vicar, Immanuel and All Saints, Oswaldtwistle; to be Vicar, Tunstall, Melting and Leek (Blackburn). The Rev Rosalind Parrett, Team Vicar, Stambourne and Wilton Diocesan Advisory Committee for the Care of Churches; to be Master of St John's Hospital, Lichfield. The Rev David Jones, Rector, Baschurch and Weston Lullington w Hordley (Lichfield); to be Minister/Desservant/Priest-in-Charge, St Luke and St James, Jersey (Winchester). The Rev Stephen Jones, formerly Vicar, Portliveren and Sibley (Truro); to be Priest-in-Charge, The Ascension, North End (Portsmouth). The Rev Dr David Miel, Team Vicar, Walton Team Ministry (LEP); to be Team Rector, Upton-on-Chalvey Team Ministry (LEP), Slough (Oxford), and has resigned as Rural Dean of Milton Keynes. The Rev Philip Need, Chaplain to the Bishop of Chelmsford; to be

THE MYSTERY OF RADIUM.

M. Curie, a French physicist of the highest reputation and attainments, has made a communication to the Academy of Sciences which would have been received with absolute incredulity had it been offered on less unimpeachable authority. He finds that a substance of comparatively recent discovery, to which the name of Radium has been given, and in the isolation of which he has had the indefatigable and invaluable assistance of Mme. Curie, possesses the extraordinary property of continuously emitting heat, without combustion, without chemical change of any kind, and without any change in its molecular structure, which remains spectroscopically identical after many months of continuous emission of heat. He finds, further, that Radium maintains its own temperature at a point 1.5deg. Centigrade, or 2.7deg. on our ordinary scale, above its surroundings. The actual quantity of heat evolved is such that the own weight of ice every hour. Or, again, half a pound of the Radium salt would evolve in one hour heat equal to that produced by the burning of one-third of a cubic foot of hydrogen gas; and this evolution of heat goes on continuously for indefinite periods, leaving

ON THIS DAY

March 25, 1903

Pierre and Marie Curie discovered in 1898 that pitchblende, when its uranium salts were removed, contained radium. For this work they shared with A. H. Becquerel the 1903 Nobel Prize for Physics.

the salt at the end of months of activity just as potent as the beginning. Radium has excited the keenest interest by its power of throwing off rays, vibrations, emanations, or whatever we may call them, which, when received upon a sensitive screen of barium platinocyanide or zinc sulphide, cause it to glow with a phosphorescent light...

It is obvious that M. Curie has introduced us to forces of a totally different order of magnitude. Phosphorescence occurs in nature, as in the glow-worm and in certain bacteria. In conditions of energy which is absolutely infinitesimal as compared with what we have

to expend to produce light. Hence the phosphorescence of a sensitive screen under the influence of Radium emanations does not necessarily take us beyond a region in which light is an accident of processes infinitely minute, but heat sufficient to raise the mercury in the thermometer by 2.7deg is a different thing altogether, and when the output of this heat is maintained indefinitely without any visible compensation to the heating body, we are in the presence of a physical effect which is considerable. We have in Radium a substance having the power to gather up and convert into heat some form of ambient energy. Other substances, mostly of high atomic weight, possess its radiant properties to a lesser extent, and research may prove that transparency to the unknown form of energy is merely a question of degree...

A small tube containing Radium, if kept in contact with the skin for some hours, or even if carried in the waistcoat pocket, produces an open sore, by destroying the epidermis and the true skin beneath. Its effects do not appear to extend to the subjacent tissues, and the sore remains superficial. On the other hand, Radium emanations act powerfully upon the nerve substance, and cause the death of living things whose nerve centres do not lie deep enough to be shielded from their influence.



NEWS

Four million cattle face slaughter

The Government is near deciding to slaughter more than four million cattle in a drastic move to restore confidence in British beef.

Benefit cheats to be offered amnesty

Benefit cheats are to be offered an amnesty to reduce the £3 billion-a-year bill for fraud.

Sinn Fein warning

Martin McGuinness, speaking after Sinn Fein's conference, indicated there was no prospect of an imminent IRA ceasefire unless Britain gave the party "absolute guarantees".

Breast cancer fall

Breast cancer, the greatest scourge of Western world women, is in retreat after three decades in which the toll from the disease mounted to record levels.

Boost for coalition

The centre-right coalition of Helmut Kohl, the German Chancellor, received a surprise boost after winning the Baden-Württemberg election.

Dole goes to jail

Incredibly for a candidate seeking to shed a dour image, Bob Dole chose to visit California's Death Row.

Chinese reaction

China was relatively restrained in its reaction to President Lee Teng-hui's 54 per cent win in Saturday's presidential elections in Taiwan.

Unwanted conference

After months of diplomatic foreplay, the leaders of the 15 European Union nations gather in Turin on Friday for the grand opening of a treaty negotiation none really wants.

Murder trial opens

A man alleged to be Australia's worst serial killer goes on trial today accused of murdering seven backpackers, including two young Britons.

Woman to revive flagging Derby

One of the great events of the social and sporting calendar's future is being entrusted to a woman. Sue Ellen, 47, has been recruited to revive the fortunes of the Derby, the world's most famous Flat race which dates back to 1780.



The Russian space station Mir as seen from a cargo bay camera on the space shuttle Atlantis after the two craft docked yesterday

BUSINESS

Training cash: Small businesses will be offered grants to train employees by a future Labour government.

Jet stream: £2 billion of orders could be won by British Aerospace after the collapse of Fokker, the Dutch planemaker.

Pay claims: Lower inflation has yet to make an impact on pay settlements, a study suggests.

Three Rs: Britain's bosses are concerned about basic literacy and numeracy skills of job applicants.

Golden touch: Twice, the producer Duncan Kenworthy has proved Hollywood wrong.

Sexy superstar: Emma Thompson is mocked in Britain as a frump and luvvie.

Cup final: Aston Villa beat Leeds United 3-0 to carry off the Coca-Cola Cup at Wembley.

Football: Eric Cantona was on target for Manchester United to beat Tottenham Hotspur 1-0.

Rugby union: Bath meet Leicester in the Pilkington Cup final at Twickenham.

Rugby league: Bradford Bulls surpassed all expectations to beat Leeds and reach the final of the Silk Cup Challenge Cup.

Golf: Wayne Riley, of Australia, won the Portuguese Open.

Athletics: Athletes from African countries dominated the world cross-country championships.

Racing: Rough Quest, the favourite, looks certain to line up for the Grand National.

IN THE TIMES. NEW ART. Jacqueline Humphries and her fellow young Americans on show at the Saatchi Collection.

LAW. Why the Home Secretary's plans for tougher sentencing will not work.

EDUCATION

Testing time: From today, a week-long guide to help you to chart your child's progress through the national curriculum.

WIND AND MATTER

Talk, talk: When men and women gather, men steer talk towards work or religion.

FOCUS

Special Report on Poland and the Czech Republic, marking the state visits by the Queen.

TOMORROW

Compensation and the BSE disaster.

Taiwan's presidential election was an affirmation of democracy.

William Rees-Mogg: Human beings may have been eating BSE-infected animals for hundreds of years.

Peter Riddell: After the next election, the new Tories will have been trained to serve in government.

Claude Bourdet: Resistance leader and founder of Observateur magazine.

Peter Clemoes: Former Professor of Anglo-Saxon at Cambridge University.

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THE TIMES CROSSWORD NO 20,124

Crossword puzzle grid with numbers 1-23 indicating starting positions for clues.

- ACROSS: 1 Little boy pinches ring, producing utter confusion (5). 4 Terrible din in dog's part of house (3-6). 9 Lack of purpose misprint time ultimately represented (9). 10 Prospect of bombs confronting volunteers (5). 11 Sportsman who cares for the game? (6). 12 Second payment after a year for stock (8). 14 Noble artist with old car in tac (10). 16 Passage for audition in this key (4). 19 Catch sight of close of play on very special channel (4). 20 One noted for longevity and plenty of bottles (10). 22 Move fast on motorway, giving wrong impression (9). 23 Note chaffinch, say, pulling back part of leaf (6).

ABERLOUR The solution of Saturday's Prize Puzzle No 20,123 will appear next Saturday. The five winners will receive a bottle of Aberlour single highland malt whisky.

THE TIMES WEATHERCAST

Table with regional forecast data for various UK regions including Great Britain, Ireland, and the Channel Islands.

AA ROADWATCH

Table with road closure and traffic information for various UK roads.

HOURS OF DARKNESS

Table with sunrise and sunset times for various UK locations.

FORECAST

General: South Wales and southern England will have thick cloud and rain, but drier later in far southwest.

AROUND BRITAIN YESTERDAY

Table with weather data for various UK locations including temperature, wind, and cloud cover.

ABROAD

Table with weather data for various international locations.

Weather map of the UK showing cloud cover, wind direction, and temperature. Includes a legend for weather symbols and a table for sea conditions.

TODAY

Table with today's weather forecast for various UK locations.

Yesterday: Highest day temp: St Neots, Cambs, 17C (63F); lowest day temp: Spaldwick, Cambs, 3C (37F); highest rainfall: Valley, Anglesley, 0.52in; highest sunshine: Tice, Hereford, 9 hr.

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**26**  
Another successful day in the life of Riley



**31**  
Paris puts spring back into Super League



**34**  
Leicester halt march of Exiles on way to cup final



**35**  
Pregnant pause interrupts Capstick's progress

# TIMES SPORT

MONDAY MARCH 25 1996



Milosevic shoots past Pemberton to put Aston Villa on their way to a comfortable 3-0 victory over Leeds United in the Coca-Cola Cup final at Wembley yesterday. Photograph: Marc Aspland

Winners set record as Coca-Cola Cup final falls flat for Leeds

## Villa profit from import policy

Aston Villa ..... 3  
Leeds United ..... 0

By ROB HUGHES  
FOOTBALL CORRESPONDENT

THREE splendidly struck goals, the first imported from Serbia, the second from the only Brummie on the field and the third courtesy of Tobago, comprehensively gave the Coca-Cola Cup to Aston Villa for a record fifth time.

The Midlands club has almost claimed ownership of this trophy, scoring more goals, winning more matches than any other. And the Villa contingent in the 77,056 crowd on an overcast day at Wembley Stadium was never given cause to believe that Leeds United were their equals.

Very early on, Townsend and Mark Draper won the contest for midfield supremacy with Gary McAllister. Given that Tony Yeboah, the other world-class Leeds player, was not offered an opportunity, never took a pass in a goalscoring position, the over-running of the white shirts was total.

The side who are first to get the ball down and play will win, McAllister had forecast as he stood admiring the green Wembley carpet. He, in fact, was almost the first to do that, embarking on a 70-yard sprint with Townsend snapping at his heels, then gliding away from McGrath, and bringing Andy Gray into play. The youngest man on the field, just

18 but with a long Leeds United family pedigree, overthrew his intended cross.

But do not take it out on the boy. With some hypnotic footwork, he was, for spells in both halves, the finest and most confident talent Leeds had on the pitch. We marvelled at the way he ghosted his foot over the ball, stole a yard of space from Southgate, ran on ten yards and then tried a swirling shot; he aimed for the top left-hand corner, and was betrayed by the wind.

Aston Villa, without Tommy Johnson who failed to report fully fit, had a flatter look to

their midfield than when Johnson is with them. Nevertheless their formation was a familiar one, while Leeds's was a confusion. The professor of tactics, Howard Wilkinson, was to try three separate methods, all of them shrugged aside by Villa.

It did not help that Wilkinson chose Gary Speed on the left. Speed had fractured a cheekbone a month ago, the doctors had advised a three-month lay-off and bravery was also foolhardiness as he tried but failed to impose his full range of skills on the game. It was a poor clearance

from him that offered Yorke the first opening in the fourteenth minute.

Yorke slipped the ball through Pemberton's legs before shooting with some power, but the angle was acute. Lukic stood up solidly and expertly at the near post, and blocked the shot with his chest.

The denial was not prolonged. In the twentieth minute, Savo Milosevic used his left foot in the manner the folks back home in Belgrade were accustomed to — but we have barely seen since his £3.5 million move to the English

Midlands. Townsend had intercepted the ball from Speed and, from the halfway line, directed it to the feet of the big target-man from Serbia.

Milosevic had Pemberton in front of him and, when Pemberton backed off, he produced a shot from 22 yards that curled as if guided by radar high into the net. It was a wonderful strike, followed by an adrenalin rush that took the 22-year-old to the halfway line, his colleagues in pursuit.

As Gareth Southgate, himself a newcomer to the club this season, had said, Milosevic has taken cruel criticism for a young man coming into a land where the pace, the bustle of football makes it as foreign a game as the language.

We were to reach half-time with more bookings than shots on target. Wetherall, for body-checking Yorke, Ford for kicking Townsend's shin, and McGrath for scything down Yeboah. Late in the game, Southgate was booked for another foul on Brulin.

Leeds had tried, principally through the invention of Gray and occasionally through the ability of Kelly, to cross the ball from the right, but though McAllister once rose majestically to meet a corner by Speed, Bosnich comfortably cleared the danger. Leeds had in fact been confined to a single shot until, reorganised at half-time, they at last produced a flowing movement from McAllister to Palmer.

Then on via Speed to Gray. He dragged the ball inside Charles, though his shot was impulsive and easily blocked. And then, ruining the only good spell that Leeds mount-

ed, Villa broke away to score again. It was the 56th minute as Wright burst down the left.

His cross induced panic in Radebe, who attempted to do what Yeboah normally does, to hurl his body acrobatically in the air and clear overhead.

The ball flew straight to Ian Taylor, a player whose childhood had been spent supporting Villa from the Holte End. Taylor met the ball full on the volley and, from 15 yards, struck it with rare power and accuracy. Lukic, for the second time, was beaten before he could move a muscle.

There were forlorn gestures

Keegan's muddle ..... 28  
Humbling for City ..... 28  
Results and tables ..... 30

from Leeds — the introduction of Brulin, the attempt by Palmer to head for goal — before Aston Villa rounded off proceedings emphatically. It was McAllister, of all people, who made a hash of a pass in midfield and gave the ball directly to Draper, who quickly transferred it to the feet of Milosevic.

The Serb jinked, drew Pemberton and Wetherall to him, and then side-footed the ball to Yorke who, 12 yards out, lashed it high into the net. A merciless finish from the Tobagan, a merciless day against the White Rose.

ASTON VILLA (3-5-2): M. Bosnich — U. Ekechi, P. McGrath, G. Southgate — G. Charles, I. Taylor, M. Draper, A. Townsend, A. Wright — D. York, S. Milosevic.

LEEDS UNITED (3-4-1-1): J. Lukic — D. Wetherall, J. Pemberton, L. Radebe (capt), T. Bosnić (66min) — G. Kelly, G. McAllister, M. Ford (sub), B. Donno, 46), G. Speed — A. Gray, A. Yeboah.

Referee: P. Ait

## Cantona puts United clear

By OUR SPORTS STAFF

ALEX FERGUSON, the Manchester United manager, paid tribute to Eric Cantona, who scored an outstanding goal in his side's 1-0 win over Tottenham Hotspur at Old Trafford yesterday. The result took United three points clear of Newcastle United — who have two games in hand — at the top of the FA Carling Premiership.

Cantona struck decisively with an individual effort after 50 minutes — the fifth successive match in which the Frenchman has scored and his fifteenth goal of the season for his third Premiership title in four years and their second double in three seasons.

Ferguson said: "Eric is a marvellous player. He was up for it today and over the past few weeks he's performed



Cantona: outstanding

for us have been getting better and better. It's immeasurable — how can you quantify that goal? It could mean us winning the title."

Steve Bruce, the United captain, also made a glowing reference to Cantona, whose strike took the lead out of

Tottenham after they had dominated the first-half exchanges. "Eric is a unique talent and he seems always to be there, or thereabouts, in big games."

"It was a goal that was going to be difficult, but credit to Spurs because they played very well and came at us and attacked us. It's going to be tense."

However, Gerry Francis, the Tottenham manager, left Old Trafford complaining that his team had become the latest victims of refereeing injustice at the ground. Francis felt that his side should have been awarded a corner seconds before Cantona broke away to score.


"It was a corner — everyone knew it was a corner. Andy Sinton had gone to take the corner — all of a sudden they are on the attack," he said.

United stride on, page 29

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# RFU clears rebels out of congested war zone

By DAVID HANDS, RUGBY CORRESPONDENT

WHILE English rugby's incipient rebellion was reduced to a murmur at Birmingham yesterday, the main battle remains to be fought. The Rugby Football Union's (RFU) handling of its second special general meeting was far more successful than the first attempt ten weeks ago but today, just 24 hours later, it must find some accord with its leading clubs.

The rank-and-file of English rugby — given that the content of the meeting was largely West Country in origin — may be likened to Monmouth's rebellion — were justified in their appeal, in January, on behalf of "their" game.

Yesterday's subsidence, in the face of the RFU's insistence that every club had the right to

conflict may be increased as Fran Cotton remains a member of the RFU negotiating panel.

Cotton, the former England prop who now chairs the North's playing committee, took the opportunity in Birmingham yesterday to challenge the motives of the leading clubs. Proposing a divisional structure as the best way to guarantee future success at international level, Cotton said: "The club posturing is driven by three or four clubs or, should I say, three or four individuals within those clubs. The language coming from those clubs is disenfranchising their own members. Those clubs are not united and, in most cases, are financially weak."

"We are convinced that the RFU would have the support of the vast majority of the game if it took a firm stance now to control the first division clubs and ensure that democracy prevails." As his audience included a former playing colleague, Peter Wheeler, of Leicester, who is now in the vanguard of the clubs' drive for commercial prosperity, the potential for disagreement remains as strong as ever.

Democracy, at least, has had its day. David Hiles, the secretary of Pinner and Gramarians, who described the first special meeting as a shambles, congratulated the RFU on its organisation. "Our task is to persuade the senior clubs to stay with us, to work with us and remember the roots from which they came," he said.

"What I want from senior players is for them to become heroes for my school pupils to look up to. There are too many anti-heroes in today's society. I want people who rise to the top to realise what they have to live up to in terms of standards and behaviour."

Hiles received a rousing reception before the meeting ground out details of player registration — which will now require a seven-day clearance and no fee — and accepted the RFU's recommendation for a new disciplinary body to deal with high-profile cases. The union, after receiving advice from the Football Association, regarded this as critical given the potential for litigation now implicit in a professional game.



Kwan, the American ice skater, displays excellent balance on her way to the world championship gold medal

## Kwan's perfect answer secures title

FROM JOHN HENNESSY IN EDMONTON

THE curtain came down on the world ice skating championships at the Coliseum here on Saturday evening with a battle royal between two gifted teenagers, between East and West, between a Chinese American and a Chinese Chinese.

When the dust settled Michelle Kwan, the 15-year-old American, had risen magnificently to the formidable challenge thrown down by Lu Chen, 19, to win by six judges to three.

Nobody here could remember if there had ever been a perfect mark of 6.0 in the women's championship, yet here there were four, two to each skater for presentation. Sixes have been common-

place in ice dance and occasionally among the men, but never, it seems, among the women.

That was the measure of the task facing Kwan, protected from the scene by a curtain as she waited to skate, fully able to bear Chen's glittering array of marks.

The Chinese Chinese had announced herself with two combinations, adding double toe loops to first a triple lutz and then a triple flip. From then on there was no hint of error as she wove her magic through a series of four more triple jumps interlaced with elegant spins and spirals.

Waiting for Chen's marks, the crowd bayed: "Six, six, six..." and the judges from

France and Hungary duly obliged.

All previous experience told us that Chen had retained her title, but nobody had told Kwan. She opened with a setback for her combination was the same as Chen's when she had planned a triple toe loop on the end of her lutz.

But she and her coach, wise old Frank Carroll, had prepared for that possibility and, defying fatigue, she made amends with a triple toe loop, her seventh, instead of a double axel at the very end of her programme.

What a way to round off four minutes of demanding skating and at the age of 15. Again the cry went up: "Six, six, six..." and again two

judges responded, those from Bulgaria and Japan.

The women's final is often a disappointment, but not this time. This was a classic, with two Russians, Irina Slutskaya, European champion at 17, and Maria Butyrskaya, an old lady of 23, also skating almost to their full potential, to take the next two places.

Stephanie Main, the British champion, showed much better form than in the qualifying competition, with two successful triple jumps and an average mark of nearly 4.7, compared with a little over 4.1 last Monday. All the same, it only served to keep her in 22nd place.

# Peak practice helps Brown hit new high

FROM DAVID POWELL, ATHLETICS CORRESPONDENT IN STELLENBOSCH

JON BROWN produced the best performance by a British man at the world cross country championships for seven years here on Saturday yet still finished behind the last scoring Kenyan. Once again, Africa dominated this event as surely as Table Mountain dominates nearby Cape Town.

African nations won all four individual and team races, 11 of the 12 individual medals and ten of the 12 sets of team medals. Kenya won the men's team title for an eleventh successive year and the women's for the fifth time in six years. Britain, meanwhile, has become accustomed to measuring success by how it fares in a European context and, in that respect, the senior men showed up well.

After three years in decline, they finished fifth, second only to Spain in the European subplot. Brown, twelfth, was the first European, the highest by a Briton since Tim Hutchings was second in 1989.

Thus Brown justified his selection, despite missing the trial, while the controversial inclusion of Rob Denmark, ahead of athletes who had beaten him in the selection race, was justified. He was the third British scorer, ahead of Keith Cullen, the trial-winner.

The leading British runners agree that, to become medal contenders, the trial needs to be dropped and a squad assembled for warm-weather altitude training six weeks before the championships. "It is haphazard," Brown said. "At the moment it is just hobby preparation."

Brown spent seven weeks at altitude in Boulder, Colorado, which, though not ideal because the weather was cold, was better preparation than that enjoyed by his team colleagues. He chose Boulder because he was offered cheap accommodation and medical support. "A team camp in Johannesburg would have been perfect," he said.

He accused the British Athletic Federation (BAF) of ineptitude. "The coaching staff here have been fantastic in getting people motivated but it is the preparation that is most important and we are not getting any help," he said.

In his first year as manager, David Clarke has made a big impression, winning the support of the athletes. Brown, Denmark and John Nuttall, the second Briton here, agree that the squad should be selected by Clarke several weeks before the championships, rather than by selectors three weeks in advance. With the BAF's finances in a

parlous state, Clarke holds out no hope for the funding of a pre-championships camp. In that case, he said, the trial must stay. "You have got to offer hope to Joe Average," Clarke said. But, as Brown said: "You are not going to get some dark horse from Britain in the top 30." The point was proved by Steve Harris, the unexpected team member, who finished 151st.

Paul Tergat, from Kenya, retained the men's title, though he was nearly brought down when Haile Gebresilasie, from Ethiopia, tripped on a log. Tergat's eleventh kilometre, in 2min 29sec — sub 25-minute pace at 10,000 metres — ended Gebresilasie's chances.

The familiar Kenya team tactics worked well for Tergat, who ran behind the leading group for most of the way. Gebresilasie, the 5,000 and 10,000 metres world record-holder but never higher than third in four world cross



Tergat retained title

country championships, said that he was finished with trying. He said that last year but insisted he meant it this time. Ethiopia provided the women's champion, Gete Wami succeeding Derartu Tulu, her compatriot, whose chance was lost when she stopped to retrieve a lost shoe. Annemari Sandell, from Finland, second in the junior women's race, and Romania, third in the senior women's team contest, were Europe's only medal-winners.

Romania's success was an embarrassment for the International Amateur Athletic Federation (IAAF). Two of their team were Lulia Negura and Elena Fidatov, who were found last week to have taken a drug-testing agent that is not on the banned list. Primo Nebiolo, the IAAF president, described what Negura and Fidatov had taken as "a terrible substance".

## Pickering appeals for support

By CRAIG LORD

KAREN PICKERING, Britain's most successful woman swimmer of the past three years, last night said she would not attend the Olympic training camp, did not wish to attend the compulsory holding camp and held out little hope of glory in Atlanta if Britain failed to select her coach to travel with her this summer.

After winning the 200 metres freestyle at the Olympic trials in Sheffield, which ended last night with 27 swimmers on the national team for Atlanta, Pickering said of her coach, Dave Champion: "If he's not there, there's no point in me going to the camp. What more do I have to do to make sure everything is right on the big day?"

Champion was not with Pickering, 24, in Barcelona, and the pair said they would never again wish to attend a

pre-championship training camp after a BBC camera fell into the water on top of Pickering, slightly injuring her back before she competed.

The selectors have three places for coaches to fill. Two remain, but Pickering believes she and Champion will lose out. "It seems they prefer the coaches of male swimmers," she said after being pressed to a time of 2min 01.39sec, her fourth fastest, by Sarah Hardcastle yesterday.

The display of the weekend came from James Hickman in the 200 metres butterfly. Hickman, 19, from Stockport, became the first Briton to swim under two minutes in the heats on Saturday, breaking the record of Philip Hubble, whose 2min 02.12sec was set when he finished behind Michael Gross at the 1981 European championships.

Hubble sent a fax to congratulate Hickman, which goured the teenager to lower his new standard by a further 1.22sec in the final. His time 1:58.50sec would have won him the bronze medal at the Barcelona Games.

Caroline Foot, 31 last week, yesterday joined Margaret Holmann, née Kelly, as the only other member of that exclusive club of thirty-somethings who have swum for Britain at the Olympic Games since the Second World War. Her time of 1min 01.89sec in the 100 metres butterfly was a personal best.

Others to book places on the team last night were Adam Ruckwood, an outside medal hope in the 200 metres backstroke, and Helen Slater, in the 100 metres backstroke.

Results, page 36

## Panthers forced to rely on benefactor

NOT being in the play-offs, which is now the likely fate of the Doncaster Panthers basketball team after their defeat by Thames Valley Tigers on Saturday, will pale into insignificance if the club goes out of existence at the end of the season (Nicholas Harling writes). Their destiny lies, apparently, with a mystery benefactor who is deciding whether to allow the Panthers or Crystal Palace to profit from his wealth.

Should the Budweiser League decide belatedly to promote Palace, the first division champions-elect, he would almost certainly plump for the London club. However, should Palace be denied for the fourth successive season, the Panthers may get his vote, which would be doubly welcome since the country's biggest joinery firm, John Carr,

will shortly end its second term of sponsorship after 3½ years.

In the process of their 99-92 victory, the Tigers improved their own hopes of reaching the play-offs.

Worthing Bears, safe in seventh place, participated in a high-scoring 131-107 win over Hemel Hempstead Royals. The last quarter alone produced 77 points, 47 of them to the Bears.

Steve Nelson's 34 points were three more than his player-coach, Colin Irish, although neither Bear could surpass Ray Schultz, scorer of 38 points for the Royals.

Derby Storm, winners by 102-82 over Chester Jets, were indebted to LaKeith Humphrey for his 23 points, including one remarkable spell when he accumulated 13 in a row.

## IAAF to extend prize-money

FROM DAVID POWELL IN CAPE TOWN

PRIZE-MONEY is to be paid at the world championships for the first time, the International Amateur Athletic Federation (IAAF) announced here yesterday. It will include probably \$100,000 (about £65,000) for a world record and an estimated \$10 million overall is likely to be paid out at the next outdoor world championships in Athens in 1997.

The world indoor championships and the World Cup are also to become prize-money events, although the sport's other main spectacle, the world cross country championships, remain for honour and sponsorship benefits only. The first IAAF championships to be held with prize-money will be the world indoor championships in Paris next March.

There has been growing unrest among athletes over

the IAAF's intransigence towards paying prize-money. Michael Johnson, Carl Lewis and Noureddine Morceli are among those who have been critical and the awarding of cars to winners at the past two outdoor world championships went only a short way to appeasing the critics. "We have decided to face life in a realistic manner," Primo Nebiolo, the IAAF president, said.

Now athletes are set to enjoy a new wealth. Grand prize-money has already been increased hugely this year to \$3.4 million. While reluctant to indicate how much a world champion's purse might be worth, Nebiolo said it would be "surely not less" than in the grand prize. Probably in the region of \$100,000.

The IAAF will be rewarding not only its champions but

also the support cast in each event, down to eighth place, providing it secures the sponsorship, of which — in view of the announcement yesterday — Nebiolo seems confident.

However, the 1996 grand prize has started without a backer so far, and an agreement over a new television deal is long overdue. If Nebiolo has misjudged it, the IAAF will need to dig into its reserves.

The IAAF has also changed the Olympic timetable to accommodate Johnson's attempt at a 200-400 metres double and relented on its controversial decision to stage the men's marathon in early evening when the risk of heat exhaustion in Atlanta is high. It will be run at 7am. The council of the IAAF will be busy today, when it considers the Diane Modahl case.

# "The boys done great Brian!"



CONGRATULATIONS TO ASTON VILLA F.C.

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Newcastle betray further signs of tension in defeat at Highbury

Keegan flirts with muddle management



David Miller finds flaws in the character and leadership of the erstwhile league leaders

Where has Kevin Keegan gone wrong? His team, which seemingly could not stop winning, now cannot halt the uncomfortable experience of defeat.

Or, a third possibility, is the team not receiving the right messages from a manager who has limited experience in the cockpit at this level?



Ginola, right, the Newcastle winger, attempts to fend off the challenge of Dixon, the Arsenal defender. Photograph: Julian Herbert

Seaman. Moments later, Asprilla left the pedestrian Platt for dead on the edge of the centre circle, raced to the penalty area, sidestepped Linighan and hit a cross-shot which again Seaman saved.

In those few moments, Newcastle's hopes came and went, and by the time Asprilla hit a post in the closing minutes, the Arsenal supporters had long been chanting tauntingly that Keegan had better get his cheque-book out again.

that win matches, but there was no doubting the effectiveness on this occasion with which Arsenal's rearguard stifled any menace while, at the other end, the industry of Bergkamp behind Wright — before he had to leave the field with an injury — and Harrison ground Batty into insignificance.

Arsenal were ahead within three minutes. The uncertain Barton conceded a corner under pressure from Wright. Merson's kick was deflected at the near post and Marshall met the ball with a header which gave Srnicek no chance.

Winterburn went past Barton to roll the ball square into the path of Wright, who scored with a glancing shot.

Bolton use muscle to lift their status

Bolton Wanderers ..... 2 Sheffield Wednesday .... 1

BY PETER BALL

TEAMS under pressure revert to type. After an anaemic first half, Bolton Wanderers listened to their ancestral voices on Saturday, recalling the aggressive side of Nat Lofthouse rather than the more recent footballing teams of Ian Greaves and Bruce Rioch as they thrashed Sheffield Wednesday aside to claim three important points.

surviving terraces, Burnden Park was suddenly a throwback to another age. If Sheffield Wednesday had been wearing their traditional blue and white on Saturday, it would have looked like a meeting of 40 years ago with the Bolton of Hartle and Banks, Herwin and Higgins muscling aside the deft touches of Quixall and Froggatt.

Struggling City are made to pay for false economy

Manchester City reaped the first dividend from their sale of Garry Flitcroft at Upton Park on Saturday: a humbling 4-2 defeat by West Ham United that left them one place closer to the FA Carling Premiership relegation zone.

Oliver Holt on why an ill-judged departure could send Alan Ball's team into oblivion

Hundreds of City supporters jammed the club's switchboard late last week to protest at the £3.2 million sale of the home-grown midfielder player to Blackburn Rovers. Alan Ball, the City manager, said they had cover. Well, Blackburn have got cover for Alan Shearer, too, but that does not mean they want to sell him.

and, nine minutes after the interval, he beat his marker to Hughes's near-post corner and glanced it into the top corner of the City net.

IT IS perfectly straightforward. Queens Park Rangers need to find a seriously wealthy benefactor before the transfer deadline on Thursday. There is a high statistical probability that among their supporters there is a successful entrepreneur, lottery winner or heiress.

Wilkins ensnared by poverty trap

Chelsea ..... 1 Queens Park Rangers .... 1

BY ALYSON RUDO

IT IS perfectly straightforward. Queens Park Rangers need to find a seriously wealthy benefactor before the transfer deadline on Thursday. There is a high statistical probability that among their supporters there is a successful entrepreneur, lottery winner or heiress.

unstoppable header. Barker swung at Dichio's lay-off to equalise from the edge of the area and, although Chelsea should have won, a combination of their visitors' tenacity and careless finishing by Fulford led to the draw.

Collymore chastened by Forest's chorus of disapproval



Nottingham Forest ..... 1 Liverpool ..... 0

BY SIMON BARNES

IT WAS not so much a contest of footballing skills, more an examination of self-belief. Perhaps that is the case with all football matches, but if so, it was ten times truer of this one. It was true on a collective and on an individual basis.

English football, about to soar to new heights on his return to his former club, Nottingham Forest?

There is a shark-like menace about Collymore when he is at his best: a rare combination of strength and self-certainty. But seeking defiance, he found himself taunted into tentativeness. The game really turned around his short-range poke at goal in the first half. It was a predator's chance, requiring instant response and a soupçon of accuracy.

different move. In such an atmosphere, and always "trying too hard", you begin to doubt even your own deepest instincts.

Thus the game was decided by a goal of perfect uncertainty. It needs no ghost from the grave to tell us that Pearce can kick like a mule. James, the Liverpool goalkeeper, was nonetheless unprepared. Pearce hit straight at him, but that is no guarantee of safety where Pearce is concerned. James made a hash of it, the ball bounced back off his chest, Cooper tucked it back and Stone finished with some exuberance.

One-down at half-time, Liverpool must have heard that the FA Carling Premiership leaders, Newcastle United, were still worse off against Arsenal. It was the moment to stake a serious claim for the championship. Surfing a tremendous run of 20 games without defeat, Liverpool faced a moment that decides the destinies of seasons, teams, manag-

ers, dynasties. And Liverpool had everything save self-certainty.

Wimbledon raised by spirit of premium bonding

Everton ..... 2 Wimbledon ..... 4

BY MARK HOOKINSON

TEAM spirit is like wisdom, health, love and youth — it cannot be bought. Coveted by all, achieved by few, it is the only real strand of romanticism remaining in the modern game. It is a paradox that while Wimbledon's style and etiquette are unapologetically raw, their camaraderie has a marvellously old-fashioned charm.

Full results and league tables ..... Page 30

across the goal when a shot was necessary.

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# Paris puts spring in rugby league's step



**Christopher Irvine**  
on the French club  
striving to hold its  
own in Europe

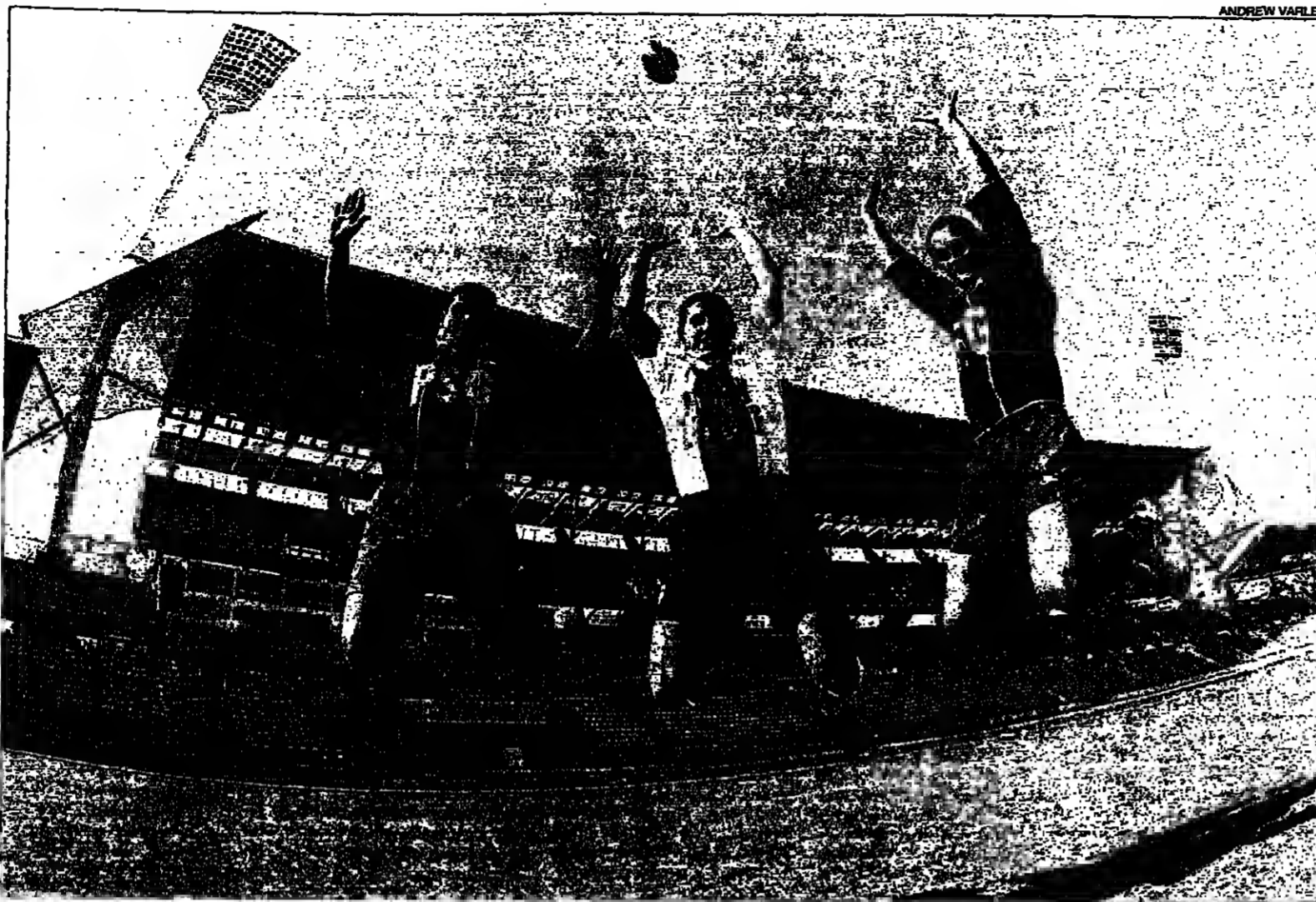
The Charley Stadium, a giant concrete saddle, sits astride the thirteenth and fourteenth arrondissements. In the Parc Montsouris, opposite, Lenin once strolled and took in the now decaying grandeur of a reproduction of the Bardo Palace in Tunis. Revolution is again in the air. Not that signs of it are instantly visible in this corner of southeast Paris.

It is here that rugby league's summer adventure, the European Super League, kicks off on Friday. Paris Saint-Germain (PSG), the arrivistes, tackle Sheffield Eagles. Imagine, for a moment, Normandy joining the county cricket championship. Students at the Cité Universitaire next door greet the mention of rugby d'été with a puzzled stare.

The European dimension to the Super League is provided by a club set up in nine months. It is a remarkable feat, but self-promotion is only just under way. An oppressed sport in France, which rugby union has always sought to undermine, is cranking itself up for an unexpected big push provided by the £87 million Super League windfall. What rugby union and football talk about but have not yet got, rugby league has — a European league, albeit of 11 English clubs and one French one.

For supporters who have been drenched by leaking roofs at generally ramshackle English grounds, Paris in the springtime will come as a blessed relief. Cafés on the Champs-Élysées join the pubs of Wheldon Road, Castleford, on the list of pre-match watering-holes.

Club trips to France are booking fast. More important is what the French public make of it and whether the



Adams, Banquet and Lucchese hope to launch Paris Saint-Germain, and the Super League, in style at the Charley Stadium on Friday

new team can avoid the one relegation place this season.

The squad consists of virtually the entire France national team, plus a sprinkling of antipodeans and South Sea islanders. It is a question of how competitive the side can be in proven company. Just as he is under no illusion about the size of the task, Tas Baitieri, the club's streetwise general manager, believes that without Super League the game in France was doomed.

"It would have contracted to the point of village football," he said. "Traditional towns would have continued playing at a very poor standard. Suddenly, the game is regenerated, renovated. If we don't grab this lifeline, rugby league will slip into oblivion."

Baitieri is an Australian-Italian who fell in love with France when he arrived 16 years ago. He played in the winter for Châtillon, and for Penrith and Canterbury back in Australia in the summers, before settling in the country for a life of missionary work with the Fédération de Rugby

à XIII until the advent of Super League.

The initial aim was to have two sides in France. Although at the heart of rugby league's southern base, Toulouse was quickly rejected. All efforts were directed to Paris, which was seen as having the profile to project the sport more fully. It is eight years since rugby league had television exposure in France, but Canal Plus, the satellite channel, has made a three-year commitment to



Baitieri: optimistic

broadcast PSG matches. Even a traditionally apathetic press is taking note.

In a fashion-conscious city, the PSG label is an important mark of credibility and respectability. Rugby league joins basketball, handball, volleyball, athletics, boxing, judo and, most significant, football in the PSG omni-sports organisation. When introduced to the PSG home crowd at the European Cup Winners' Cup football match with Parma last Thursday, the rugby league team got some curious looks but also an enthusiastic reception, which is likely to be repeated on Friday night. A crowd of 15,000 is expected at the Charley Stadium.

Having to fly players from Toulouse for games is a drawback. "Long-term, we are looking to relocate everyone here, but our first priority must be to stay in Super League by avoiding the dreaded twelfth spot," Baitieri said. "If we can do that, we'll have been successful. With our international players and the overseas contingent, we'll be competitive."

Darren Adams is a second-row forward from New Zealand with a rugby union pedigree at Racing Club. As a convert to league, he is something of a rarity in France. "In league I'm handling the ball more, doing more, whereas union in France is following the robot model in England," Adams said. "It's a bit like going to church and finding 'He' doesn't exist. I know a number of union players who feel the same way."

Not that a flood of converts is expected. PSG is the first fully professional league club in France, but payments are no more than at a first division union club. For Laurent Lucchese, the full back, Paris represents a homecoming after three years at Huddersfield and Sheffield. "If you wanted to progress in league you had to go to England," Lucchese said. "Now it is different. We'll be meeting far

better opposition, which means we'll improve, and players like myself, Freddie Banquet and Patrick Entat, with English club experience, bring with us the principles of English discipline."

In Carcassonne, Villeneuve, Lézignan and St Estève, where rugby league is part of local life, there is jealousy and suspicion that the capital has been chosen for the Super League club.

"The towns in the south think they've been let down," Baitieri said. "But they realise, too, that rugby league needs to rationalise, be in big cities like Paris, where you've a support base, media exposure and sponsors. The games will be seen there on TV and we're taking the Wigan game down there on July 20." The acid tests, however, will come at Wigan, St Helens, Warrington and Bradford, all in the next two months.

# Bradford ahead of schedule as Smith builds bright future

Bradford Bulls ..... 28  
Leeds ..... 6

By Christopher Irvine

ON ARRIVAL at Bradford Bulls from Sydney St George seven months ago, Brian Smith felt like an Oxford University lecturer turned kindergarten teacher. His pupils are learning fast, but even their Australian coach doubted that they would graduate quite so quickly to a Silk Cup Challenge Cup final after 23 years of trying in vain.

Smith might have despaired on the bleak night, four months ago, when 13 Bradford players failed to beat 11 from St Helens, their opponents at Wembley on April 27. "Nothing makes you learn more than a real embarrassment, and that was right up there at the top," Smith said.

Of course there have been substantial personnel changes at Odsal since then and, though not yet the finished article, the brazenly confident semi-final victory at Huddersfield on Saturday exposed the limitations in the Leeds make-up and underlined the potential at Smith's disposal.

No club has embraced the idea of Super League with such alacrity as Bradford, or built up its playing resources so assiduously. Smith's was the key appointment and everything else looks to be falling into place. "This team can significantly improve, if they keep reacting to me and I keep my shoulder at the wheel," Smith said.

Bradford were rugby league dinosaurs not so very long ago, a role that their neighbours are now in danger of fulfilling. Too many fine players have left Headingley and not been replaced. Dean Bell, the Leeds coach, was candid in his admission that he has had enough of knocking on the boardroom door, and that the ten per cent of players he is ready to dispense with are lucky to have stayed this long.

Leeds, for book-balancing purposes, needed to reach Wembley for a third year. But a generally inexperienced pack was soundly beaten by a streetwise Bradford six, and

older heads floundered in the storm that the opposition whipped up to take a 10-0 lead inside the first 12 minutes.

Apart from a Cummins try in the sixteenth minute, Leeds lacked the inspiration and direction that Robbie Paul, the 20-year-old captain and scrum half, provided so tellingly for Bradford. "We are disappointed but we haven't got time to sulk about it," Bell said. "We didn't perform to our potential, but next week the start of Super League is a bigger challenge."

The most glorious sight of the compelling encounter on Saturday was of Paul Loughlin, the former Great Britain back, in full flight. Donougher and Loughlin thundered down the left with devastating effect, furnishing Jonathan Scales with three tries. Calland, looking hungry after a three-month suspension, and Knox got the others and Cook punished his former side with four goals.

Loughlin helped to mete out Bradford's salutary lesson last November while wearing a St Helens shirt.

Two weeks later, he, Nickle

Results ..... 36

and Dwyer departed Knowlesy Road as make-weights in the deal for Paul Newlove. There will be points to prove on both sides at Wembley next month.

Having confounded the theory on Saturday that Bradford Bulls are no more than a head-down and charge outfit, Smith's biggest problem is now one of selection. He has Tomlinson and Lowes available at scrum half and hooker for five Super League games before the final, for which the new pair will still be cup-tied.

SCORES: Bradford: Tries: Scales (4), Calland, Knox, Goals: Cook (4) Leeds: Try: Cummins Goal: Hoyle  
BRADFORD BULLS: P. Cook (capt), D. Loughlin, J. Scales, G. Brogan, R. Paul, S. McDermott, J. Donougher, J. Fairbank, G. Knox, G. Paul, P. Newlove, S. Hoyle  
LEEDS: A. Gabbarty (capt), M. Golden, D. J. Fallon, R. Ho, F. Cummins, P. Hassan, G. Mann (capt), S. G. Hogg, G. Hogg, H. Harrison, M. Snow, H. Howard, A. Murray, J. Pugh (capt), M. Schultz, Z. M. Forshaw (capt), P. Bell  
Referee: S. Cummings

### SHEEHAN on BRIDGE

By Robert Sheehan, BRIDGE CORRESPONDENT

Alan Truscott (the bridge columnist of the *New York Times*) and Ken Barbour were once British internationals, but have both lived in the US for many years. They found an elegant defence on this hand, from the US nationals at Atlanta in November.

Dealer South East-West game Teams

♠ A753 ♠ 102244  
♥ 4 ♠ AK654 ♠ J653  
♦ 1072 ♠ A5  
♣ KQ937 ♠ A102  
♣ Q10963 ♠ J7  
♣ J4 ♠ KQ9863

S W N E  
1 NT 2H(1) 3H 4H  
5C All Pass

Contract: Five Clubs by South. Lead: king of hearts

(1) Hearts and a minor. Truscott led the king of hearts against Five Clubs, and declarer decided to follow the simple line of ruffing a heart at once, coming back to the king of hearts. Now he led dummy's last club: Barbour rose with the ace of clubs, but resisted the temptation to give his partner a spade ruff. Instead he led a diamond, to the jack, queen, and ace. To declarer's intense irritation the lead was in dummy, and no matter which plain suit he exited with one defender would ruff, and give his partner a ruff in the other suit, for one down.

Notice that if East immediately gives West a spade ruff on winning the ace of clubs, declarer can later enter his hand with a spade ruff to draw East's remaining trump.

The annual match between the Houses of Lords and Commons was played last Friday. This resulted in a win by the Lords of 760 aggregate points, taking their lead in the series to 12-10. The best played hand award went to Bridget Pretorius of the Commons.

For details of *The Times* Midland Private Banking National Bridge challenge, contact the event write to: Britannic Building, Beverley Way, New Malden, Surrey, KT3 4PH or fax to: 0181-942 9569.

Robert Sheehan writes on bridge Monday to Friday in Sport and in the Weekend section on Saturday.

### KEENE on CHESS

By Raymond Keene, CHESS CORRESPONDENT

**Flying start**  
The Bulgarian Grandmaster, Veselin Topalov, has made a brilliant start in the Euwe Memorial tournament in Amsterdam. He has beaten PCA World Champion, Garry Kasparov, and his challenger, Viswanathan Anand, in the first two rounds. The tournament is one of the strongest to be held this year.

White: Veselin Topalov  
Black: Garry Kasparov  
Amsterdam, March 1996

Sicilian Defence

1 e4 c5  
2 Nf3 d6  
3 d4 cxd4  
4 Nc3 Nf6  
5 Bc4 e6  
6 Bb3 Nbd7  
7 Bb2 Nc5  
8 0-0 Nxe4  
9 Nxe4 Bb4  
10 Nf5 e5  
11 Bc3 Qc7  
12 Qf3 Nc5  
13 Qf3 Qc7  
14 Nc6 a5  
15 Bb5 Ra6  
16 Nf6 Bg6  
17 Nf5 Rg8  
18 Nf7 Rg8  
19 Bb3 g6  
20 Ng5 Rg7  
21 Ng6 Rvg6  
22 Bf7 Qd7  
23 Nc7 Kd7  
24 Bc5 c6  
25 Rad1 Be7  
26 Rd5 Bg4  
27 Qe4 Kg7  
28 Rd1 Bxd1  
29 Rad1 Re5  
30 Qf5 Kf7  
31 Re1 b6  
32 h4 Rg7  
33 Kf1 Bb8

Diagram of final position

Raymond Keene writes on chess Monday to Friday in Sport and in the Weekend section on Saturday.

### WORD-WATCHING

By Philip Howard

**AXIOPISTY**  
a. The gable of a Greek temple  
b. Drunk  
c. Credibility

**REMONTADO**  
a. A mountain hermit  
b. A substitute horse  
c. Recurrence (of nausea)

**ABNEGATE**  
a. A Jesuit legate  
b. To repeal  
c. To deny oneself

**PUSILLANIMITY**  
a. The wild pea flower  
b. Faint-heartedness  
c. Intestine hatred

Answers on page 44

### WINNING MOVE

By Raymond Keene

White to play. The positions this week and for some time to come will celebrate the turbulent genius of Alexander Alekhine who died 50 years ago this month. This position is from the game Alekhine - Muller, Zurich 1934. White has penetrated the black position by tripling his major pieces on the f-file. How does he now complete the invasion to score a quick win?

Solution, page 44

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# Rough Quest cleared for National run

By RICHARD EVANS, RACING JOURNALIST OF THE YEAR

ROUGH QUEST looks certain to run in the Martell Grand National on Saturday after delighting his trainer, Terry Casey, in a weekend workout.

The participation of the Cheltenham Gold Cup runner-up had been in doubt, with Casey and Andrew Waters, the ten-year-old's owner, considering going instead for the Martell Cup Chase at Aintree on Thursday.

Rough Quest has been left in both races at the five-day stage but Casey said yesterday: "He's virtually certain to go for the National. He worked very well on Saturday and is a well-handicapped horse. He's in excellent form."

There is a question mark over the ability of Rough Quest to see out the demanding 4½-mile stamina test, but Casey reasoned: "It's a flat track and he travels very well throughout a race. They really only race over the last half mile so I would be hopeful."

Significantly, he added: "I didn't think he was spot on before Cheltenham; he didn't work very well the Sunday before the Gold Cup and I was not entirely happy with him. I thought he ran a little bit flat and he worked much better on Saturday. I rode him over a mile against Flight Lieutenant and he pleased me."

Meanwhile, Munnehoma, winner of the race two years ago, is not certain to line up on Saturday. His trainer, Martin

Pipe, is weighing up alternatives to run in the 13-year-old.

"He is entered in another race at Aintree and we will wait and see whether he runs," Pipe said. "He is very well and he may go for the National or he might wait for the Scottish National at Ayr."

Pipe is still set to have at least three runners in the race. "Chatam, Encore Un Peu and Riverside Boy are all likely to run," he said.

Ground considerations also mean that Jenny Pitman is delaying a decision on Lusty Light's participation. She is also considering Thursday's Martell Cup for the gelding.

Pitman ran six horses in the National last year when Royal Athlete gave her a second victory in the race. But she may rely on Superior Finish, for whom Richard Dunwoody was booked yesterday.

Simon Earle was yesterday hopeful that Dextra Dove will recover from injury in time to run at Aintree. "He worked yesterday and I was happy with him," the trainer said.

Tony Dobbin is likely to miss the ride on Tartan Tyrant after dislocating a shoulder at Kelso on Friday. Paul Carberry stands by to deputise.

Coral's latest betting: 4-1 Rough Quest, 6-1 Lo Stregone (from 7-1), 10-1 Superior Finish (from 14-1), Deep Bramble (from 14-1), Young Hustler, 14-1 Life Of A Lord, 16-1 bar.

Saturday's results, page 36

# Dubai lays ground for clash of champions

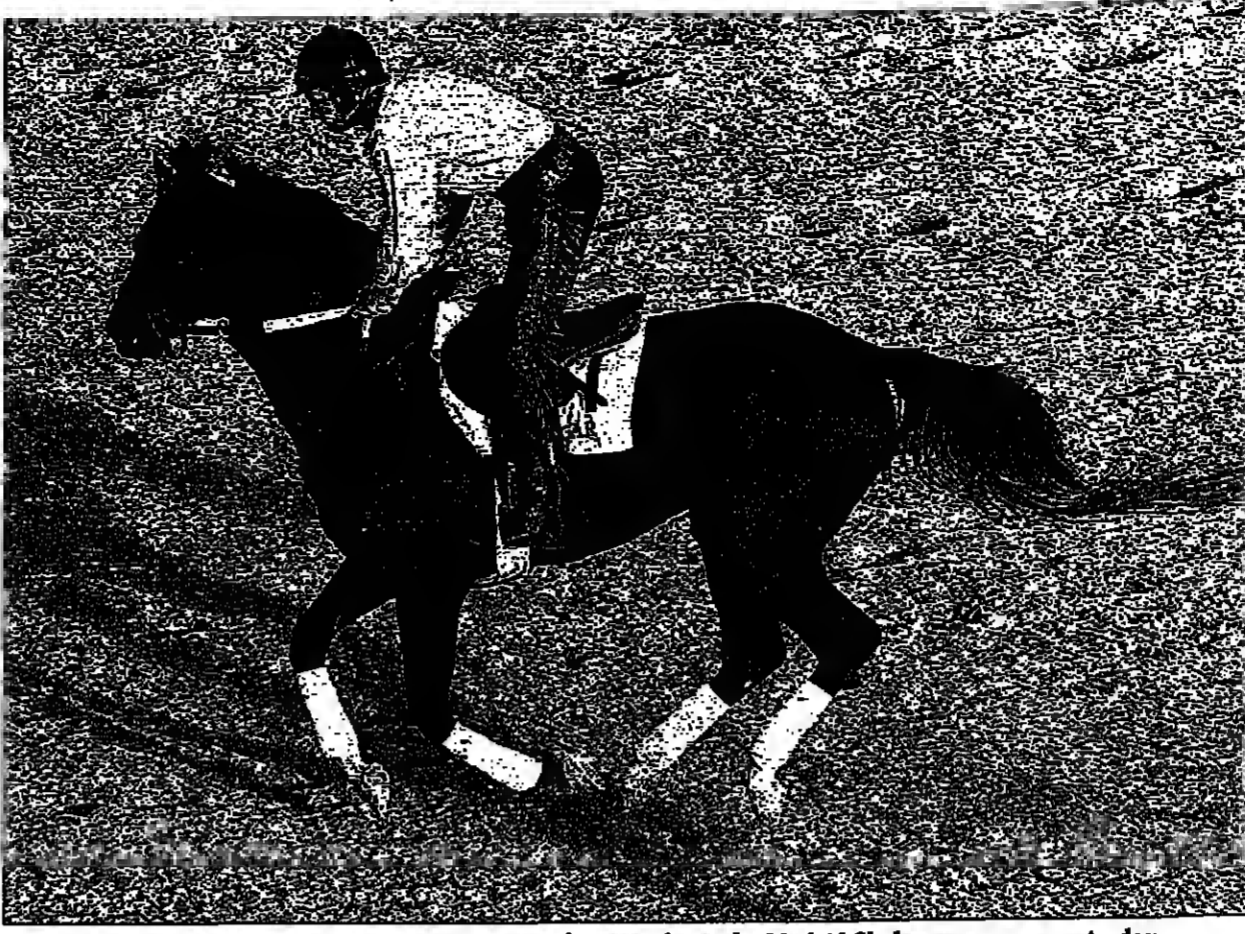
Julian Muscat finds the top thoroughbreds returning to the home of founding ancestors

It has finally come back to where it all started. More than 250 years after three Arabian stallions were plucked from the desert to establish the thoroughbred racehorse, the best of their distant ancestors have gathered in Dubai for the inaugural US\$4 million Dubai World Cup.

A community founded on a fusion of cultures has contrived an event of magnificent proportions. Never before have national champions from the United States, Australia, Europe and Japan competed for the right to be feted as the finest of all.

Previous efforts have stumbled; now this evolving emirate reaches out for what established racing nations believed was possible only through the medium of a Walt Disney fantasy. It is Packer without the circus. To decay what will unfold at Nad Al Sheba racecourse on Wednesday would be to indulge in a deep-rooted cynicism.

Bill Mott is not among the ideological objectors and his view matters more than most. For Mott, among the cream of American horsemen, has ventured to the desert with Cigar, the unofficial world champion, whose reputation will stain more in defeat than it will gain in victory. Cigar brings with him an aura of invincibility and instant credibility to a contest with the boldest of names. Without his



Cigar flexes his muscles during early-morning exercise at the Nad Al Sheba racecourse yesterday

to see if he can be a world competitor. His preparation has not been ideal, but we still believe he can come through. We wouldn't be here otherwise."

Amid the weight of petrodollars at stake, some have doubted the sincerity of Mott's remarks. Mott is the principal American trainer employed by Sheikh Mohammed Bin Rashid Al-Maktoum, the crown prince of Dubai and inspiration

behind the World Cup. Detractors argue that these links may have influenced Mott's decision to support the race.

However, such thinking is exposed by the presence here of Geoff Wragg, who saddles Pentire, one of two British representatives. As Sheikh Mohammed continues to scale down his bloodstock empire, Wragg is among those to have lost his backing. Yet Wragg, too, is "supporting" the event. And as Michael Osborne, chairman of the Dubai World Cup Committee, put it: "Wherever Pentire finishes in the race itself, the horse will go back to England with all the benefits of having spent a month in Dubai."

Osborne has played a pivotal role since the World Cup concept was explored seven months ago. He is infused both by excitement and the strain of bringing it to fruition in so short a time. But time is a luxury to anyone

responsible for the evolution of this extraordinary city. Within its infrastructure, the skyline changes daily and four-lane highways lead only to arid sand dunes.

Projects in the name of racing are also subject to regular change. Zabeel Stables were built as a monument four years ago by Sheikh Mohammed, who installed Satish Seemar as his private trainer. It remains a palatial facility, if one subsequently stripped of purpose by the Sheikh's enthusiasm for his Godolphin operation five miles away.

With four runners among the 11-strong World Cup field, Godolphin will be defending local pride. The stable has reached high altitudes over last 12 months but this may be one instance when the sheikh would prefer to be grounded. Nothing could jeopardise the event's future more than a sweep of the first three places by Godolphin's horses.

It is imperative that Cigar does himself full justice on the Dubai dirt. If he overexerts himself, it concerns Cigar may labour on this testing surface, the consensus remains that Cigar's class will see him through.

One man within Godolphin's team will have no other way. Tom Albertrani, recently recruited to Dubai from Mott's stable, was taken aside by Simon Crisford, Godolphin's manager, and asked how they could plot Cigar's defeat.

Albertrani's response was emphatic. "There is only one way to beat Cigar. Close your eyes and keep dreaming."

## FOLKESTONE

1.50 Face It  
2.20 Lloc  
2.50 Sharp Stock  
The Times Private Handicapper's top rating: 4.20 SEA SPOUSE.  
Our Newmarket Correspondent: 1.50 Jennelle, 3.20 BASOOD (nap), 4.20 Battleship Bruce.

GOING: GOOD TO SOFT  
TIDE: JACKPOT MEETING  
DRAW: NO ADVANTAGE

## 1.50 HEADCORN MAIDEN AUCTION STAKES

(2-0-0 miles; £2,381.50; 11 runners)  
101 (3) SYLVANA LIGHTS (Crested Raven) M 5-11-00 M Heavy (5)  
102 (4) MOLLY MUSIC (P. Ann) G 4-11-00 M Heavy (5)  
103 (11) MILADIE EXPRESS (Mrs V Goodwin) J 4-11-00 M Heavy (5)  
104 (7) SWEET BELLE (Rosa Maria) M 4-11-00 M Heavy (5)  
105 (6) CARRAN AND CARRAN (J. Ann) G 4-11-00 M Heavy (5)  
106 (5) DAZEN ROGERS (Mrs A Dwyer) J 4-11-00 M Heavy (5)  
107 (9) JENNELLE (Mrs J Goodwin) J 4-11-00 M Heavy (5)  
108 (10) SUNNIBERRY (Mrs J Goodwin) J 4-11-00 M Heavy (5)  
109 (12) ANTONIAC (Mrs J Goodwin) J 4-11-00 M Heavy (5)  
110 (8) BURBERRY QUEST (Mrs J Goodwin) J 4-11-00 M Heavy (5)  
111 (11) FACIE (Mrs J Goodwin) J 4-11-00 M Heavy (5)  
BETTING: 3-1 Anemic, 7-2 Face It, 5-1 Barbary Coast, 6-1 Miladie Express, 8-1 Sweet Belle, 10-1 others.

## FORM FOCUS

MILADIE EXPRESS (Apr 18, 2000) good in hand at Wetherby (AW, 8).  
SWEET BELLE (Apr 18, 2000) good in hand at Wetherby (AW, 8).  
SUNNIBERRY (Apr 18, 2000) good in hand at Wetherby (AW, 8).  
ANTONIAC (Apr 18, 2000) good in hand at Wetherby (AW, 8).  
BURBERRY QUEST (Apr 18, 2000) good in hand at Wetherby (AW, 8).  
FACIE (Apr 18, 2000) good in hand at Wetherby (AW, 8).

## 2.20 ROCHESTER HANDICAP (£3,343.50; 116 runners)

201 (7) 003304 LORCH CROFT 10 (B.J. Gifford) P 4-11-00 M Heavy (5)  
202 (10) 003304 LORCH CROFT 10 (B.J. Gifford) P 4-11-00 M Heavy (5)  
203 (11) 003304 LORCH CROFT 10 (B.J. Gifford) P 4-11-00 M Heavy (5)  
204 (9) 003304 LORCH CROFT 10 (B.J. Gifford) P 4-11-00 M Heavy (5)  
205 (8) 003304 LORCH CROFT 10 (B.J. Gifford) P 4-11-00 M Heavy (5)  
206 (14) 003304 LORCH CROFT 10 (B.J. Gifford) P 4-11-00 M Heavy (5)  
207 (10) 003304 LORCH CROFT 10 (B.J. Gifford) P 4-11-00 M Heavy (5)  
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215 (11) 003304 LORCH CROFT 10 (B.J. Gifford) P 4-11-00 M Heavy (5)  
216 (10) 003304 LORCH CROFT 10 (B.J. Gifford) P 4-11-00 M Heavy (5)  
BETTING: 4-1 Donkey, 5-1 Followme, 7-1 The Mover, 8-1 Loco, 10-1 Hubert, 12-1 others.

## FORM FOCUS

LORCH CROFT about 29th of 4th of 14 to go in hand at Wetherby (AW, 8).  
HUBERT about 29th of 4th of 14 to go in hand at Wetherby (AW, 8).  
LA BELLE DOMINOUE 1st of 2nd of 8 to go in hand at Wetherby (AW, 8).

## 2.50 SHORLEIFFE MEDIAN AUCTION MAIDEN STAKES

(3-0-0; £2,381.50; 14 runners)  
301 (11) 003304 BELLEVUE 15 (Mrs J Goodwin) M 4-11-00 M Heavy (5)  
302 (10) 003304 BELLEVUE 15 (Mrs J Goodwin) M 4-11-00 M Heavy (5)  
303 (9) 003304 BELLEVUE 15 (Mrs J Goodwin) M 4-11-00 M Heavy (5)  
304 (8) 003304 BELLEVUE 15 (Mrs J Goodwin) M 4-11-00 M Heavy (5)  
305 (7) 003304 BELLEVUE 15 (Mrs J Goodwin) M 4-11-00 M Heavy (5)  
306 (6) 003304 BELLEVUE 15 (Mrs J Goodwin) M 4-11-00 M Heavy (5)  
307 (5) 003304 BELLEVUE 15 (Mrs J Goodwin) M 4-11-00 M Heavy (5)  
308 (4) 003304 BELLEVUE 15 (Mrs J Goodwin) M 4-11-00 M Heavy (5)  
309 (3) 003304 BELLEVUE 15 (Mrs J Goodwin) M 4-11-00 M Heavy (5)  
310 (2) 003304 BELLEVUE 15 (Mrs J Goodwin) M 4-11-00 M Heavy (5)  
311 (1) 003304 BELLEVUE 15 (Mrs J Goodwin) M 4-11-00 M Heavy (5)  
312 (1) 003304 BELLEVUE 15 (Mrs J Goodwin) M 4-11-00 M Heavy (5)  
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314 (1) 003304 BELLEVUE 15 (Mrs J Goodwin) M 4-11-00 M Heavy (5)  
315 (1) 003304 BELLEVUE 15 (Mrs J Goodwin) M 4-11-00 M Heavy (5)  
316 (1) 003304 BELLEVUE 15 (Mrs J Goodwin) M 4-11-00 M Heavy (5)  
BETTING: 4-1 Donkey, 5-1 Followme, 7-1 The Mover, 8-1 Loco, 10-1 Hubert, 12-1 others.

## FORM FOCUS

ON DIV Stables in chaise at Wetherby (AW, 8).  
MRS MORGAN about 29th of 4th of 14 to go in hand at Wetherby (AW, 8).  
MONTICELLO about 29th of 4th of 14 to go in hand at Wetherby (AW, 8).  
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MONTICELLO about 29th of 4th of 14 to go in hand at Wetherby (AW, 8).

## JUMP LEADERS

Trainer	Wins	Places	Points
M Pipe	120	78	44.24
Mrs M Pipe	11	10	5.92
Mrs M Pipe	6	5	3.19
Mrs M Pipe	6	3	3.13
Mrs M Pipe	6	3	3.13
Mrs M Pipe	6	3	3.13
Mrs M Pipe	6	3	3.13
Mrs M Pipe	6	3	3.13
Mrs M Pipe	6	3	3.13
Mrs M Pipe	6	3	3.13

Jockey	Wins	Places	Points
A P McCoy	130	91	54.03
A P McCoy	97	65	52.19
A P McCoy	69	31	35.91
A P McCoy	61	34	34.89
A P McCoy	58	37	33.72
A P McCoy	52	31	28.67
A P McCoy	41	21	23.79
A P McCoy	36	24	23.21

## GUIDE TO OUR RACECARD

113 (12) 0-4-32 GOOD TIMES 74 (08.57.55) (Mrs G Goodwin) B 11-10-00 M 5 West (4) 88  
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## 3.20 ALDINGTON RATING RELATED MAIDEN STAKES

(3-0-0; £2,381.50; 11 runners)  
401 (4) 008800 GET TONGH 140 (Mrs J Goodwin) S 2-0-0-0 M Heavy (5)  
402 (3) 008800 GET TONGH 140 (Mrs J Goodwin) S 2-0-0-0 M Heavy (5)  
403 (2) 008800 GET TONGH 140 (Mrs J Goodwin) S 2-0-0-0 M Heavy (5)  
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# England upstaged in curtain-raiser

By SYDNEY FRISKIN

THE England men's hockey team produced a performance worthy of the occasion at Milton Keynes yesterday as the new National Stadium was officially opened. Ultimately, however, they lost 4-3 to India after a dramatic finish.

India, who scored three goals in the first half, were later swept aside by an England tidal wave as the home side surged forward in concerted action inspired by the centre half, Kalbir Takhir, who received the man-of-the-match award.

Before the interval, India were a dynamic side. They played with such verve that England could do little in reply, despite making a promising start themselves. Giles was not even permitted a shot from their first short corner.

India suddenly struck with telling force with a goal in the eighth minute by the outside right, Mukesh Kumar, on the rebound after Luckes had saved from the centre forward, Dajnrnj Pillay. England fell further behind in the 21st minute when the unmarked inside left, Sanjeev Kumar,

easily outwitted Luckes. Within a minute Pillay forced the ball over the line from a scramble and England's position seemed irretrievable.

The picture changed dramatically after the resumption. The pressure was at the India end, with the visitors' defence tending to panic under pressure. Shaw, making his hundredth appearance for England, began to make inroads into Indian territory.

The England attack began to cover ground at high speed and in the 42nd minute the lead was reduced by Mayer, a substitute forward, who scored near the far post after Takher had played the ball in from the left.

England redoubled their effort and earned a penalty stroke when Pearam was obstructed by the full back, Aldrin, in the 53rd minute. Nick Thompson converted and England were back in the match. Four minutes later Mayer and Thompson combined well to set up a chance from which Sharpe levelled the score.

With nine minutes left, however, Dajnrnj, running into an

open space, flicked the ball to Mukesh Kumar who scored brilliantly in the corner of the net. India's position was still by no means secure and they were visibly relieved when the end came.

In fact, the Indian goal had a narrow escape three minutes before the hooper was sounded. The centre by Sharpe from the left found its way to Mayer on the right of the circle but as he was positioning himself for a shot he was dispossessed by the India left-half, Ramanand Singh.

David Whittle, the England manager, was not dismayed. "We had some young contenders for places in the Olympic squad and we learned a lot."

**THE SAID:**  
ENGLAND: O Luckes (East Grinstead), J Wyatt (Reading), J Hills (Old Loughborough), G Pearam (Northampton), Kellie Takher (Camrook), Some Singh (Southgate), B Sharpe (Camrook), J Shaw (Southgate captain), O Hill (Quadsbury), M Thompson (Old Loughborough), M Peam (Reading). Substitutes used: S Mason (Reading), G Meyer (Camrook), H Hodson (Reading).  
INDIA: K Subbasi, Preet Singh (captain), Anil Aldrin, Harpreet Singh, Ravi Nath, Ramanand Singh, Mukesh Kumar, Baji Singh, Dharmy Pillay, Sanjeev Kumar, G Ferens. Subs used: Balji (Dhoni), Sandeep Sarmah (Mumbai), J Gonsen and P Elderz (Mumbai).



Wood, left, Logan and Adrain, right, celebrate Scotland's triples gold medal

# Wood drives Scots to triples triumph

FROM DAVID RHYNS JONES IN ADELAIDE

FIFTY-SEVEN was a good age to be at the Lockleys Bowls Centre here yesterday, when two of the sport's elder statesmen, Willie Wood and Sammy Allen, helped Scotland and Ireland to the world outdoor triples and pairs titles respectively.

Wood, who has now collected 12 medals from six world championships since his first appearance in Johannesburg in 1976, was outstanding in Scotland's triples team, tying up effectively after his lead, Kenny Logan, and calling on his vast experience to get the best out of his skip, George Adrain.

Scotland proceeded to trounce the New Zealand team of Andrew Curran, David Ellis and Peter Bellis, 26-5 in the final, allowing New Zealand to score only in singles, and the victory gave Wood special pleasure, avenging his defeat by Bellis in the 1984 final in Aberdeen.

Adrain has proud memories of Aberdeen, having won a gold medal there — for the United States. In those days, the host country provided a bank of substitutes, and the Ayrshire man, called in to

replace Jimmy Candelet, who broke his leg, helped Skippy Arculli to win the pairs title. Now, 12 years later, he has struck gold for Scotland.

Ireland's win over Scotland, the holders, in the pairs was a surprise, but well deserved. Jerome Henry, a 22-year-old student from Portrush, outplayed Richard Corsie at lead, and Allen, 35 years his senior, played a succession of magical conversion shots that bewildered Alex Marshall.

The Scots, who were widely tipped to retain their title, led 11-6 after nine ends, but dropped a count of four when Allen trailed the jack to the back of the rink and, although there was little in it, Ireland always seemed in charge thereafter.

Allen, appearing in his fourth world championships, has previously won the triples at Aberdeen in 1984 and the fours in Auckland in 1988. Today he launches his bid for the singles title, but laughed self-deprecatingly when it was suggested that a full set was in prospect, dismissing the notion with a simple "no chance".

# France happy to limit margin

England ..... 2  
France ..... 0

By ALIX RAMSAY

THE atmosphere was less than electric, the applause was canned and the performance was distinctly subdued as the England women's team beat France 2-0 in the opening match at Milton Keynes.

The organisers were determined to create an air of enthusiasm and jollity and there were regular appeals over the Tannoy for the crowd to cheer and shout. When the crowd would not join in, the organisers got their own back by playing taped applause. There was little happening on the pitch to get excited about.

The French knew their place from the outset. This was England's party to celebrate their new home and they were supposed to win. The French responded by seldom daring to venture out of their own half and, on the odd occasion they did find themselves in foreign territory, they looked suitably lost and retreated to home ground as soon as possible.

England, after scoring twice in the first 18 minutes, proceeded to make life difficult for themselves. The subsequent shooting was woefully inaccurate. Kathryn James, who has scored 11 times for Tmjans in

the national league this season, was more often than not in the right place but could not hit the target. The one time she did, she was offside. It was that sort of day.

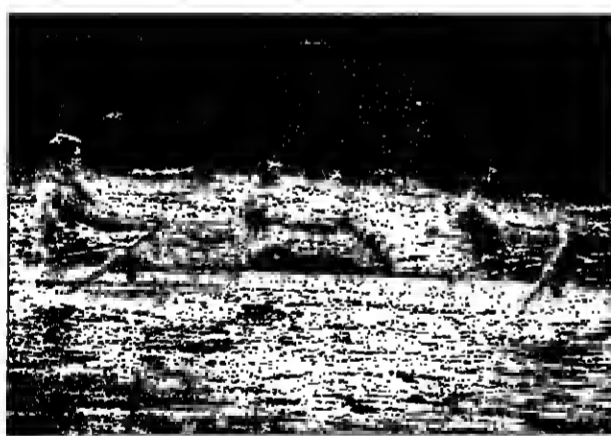
Jane Smith's pass enabled Sally Gibson to open the scoring from point-blank range with a quarter of an hour gone. Three minutes later, Jackie Crook converted a penalty stroke after another flurry of activity and an illegal stop in front of the French goal.

In the second half, France closed England down by sheer weight of numbers behind the ball as stalemate ensued.

With no Great Britain players available to her and having had little time for preparation for the match, the England coach, Maggie Souyave, knew it had not been a classic encounter but had not expected much more.

"We won, which is the main thing," she said. "I am disappointed with our finishing but the way the French played was disappointing too."

**ENGLAND:** C Reid (Brighton), K Bowden (Loughborough), S Chandler (Stour), J Crook (Highdown), J Empton (Camrook), S Gibson (Troy), K James (Troy), L Marsden (Stour), J Smith (Troy), S Wright (Lough), L Young (Troy).  
**Substitutes:** M Clewlow (Camrook), S Greenham (Loughborough), S Stewart (Loughborough), S Blanks (Loughborough).  
**FRANCE:** S Talarot, L Puyssongue, V Lohiver, M Ennes, M Lacomme, S Renou, B Picard, M Agut, L Dourlaur, A Noat, S Lescaze.  
**Substitutes:** V Catagnet, C Vives, J Larnet.  
**Umpires:** A Laros and L Simango (Spain).



The Cambridge bow three look smooth and controlled on the Tideway on Saturday. Photograph: André Camara

# Blue boats tune up for Tideway showdown

By MIKE ROSEWELL

BOTH Oxford and Cambridge emerged with wins in private fixtures on the Tideway on Saturday as the countdown to the University Boat Race, on April 6, continued.

Oxford, bronzed after ten days' training in Spain, produced three three-minute rows and a Putney to Hammer-smith piece against a Marseley crew with seven internationals on board. Cambridge, without James Ball, their regular stroke, because of an ear infection, undertook two half-course rows opposed by Nottingham County, a mixture of lightweight and heavyweight internationals.

Oxford edged the three-minute confrontations before winning the bridge-to-bridge contest by half a length, leading off the start on Surrey but never breaking clear.

In contrast, Cambridge, also on Surrey, rowed right away from a lacklustre Nottingham in their initial Putney to Chiswick Steps race, looking controlled and unruffled throughout, to win by eight seconds. The second row, from Chiswick, Exot to the finish, was a different matter as Nottingham came to life. Cambridge were again faster away, but the County kept contact and, on Middleset and with only a half-length deficit at Barnes Bridge, looked likely to come through. However, Cambridge held them off and won by just under a length.

Rubin Williams, the Cambridge coach, was happy with his crew's "guts and determination", but veeks "a bit more polishing". Oxford, clearly better than last year, will be tested further on the Tideway this week with contests against London University and Leander crews.



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**NO TURNING BACK**



Full back returns in style

Callard conducts Bath's march at the double

Bath ..... 19  
Gloucester ..... 10

BY DAVID HANDS  
RUGBY CORRESPONDENT

FOR the third time in eight years Bath will meet Leicester in the final of the Pilkington Cup, proof — if proof were needed — of the degree to which these two clubs continue to dominate English rugby. Neutral observers, and perhaps the sponsors, may occasionally hope for change but until the rest can meet the demanding standards set by this pair they will wish in vain. Since both are setting the pace in the Courage Clubs Championship, too, the prospect of a double-clinching victory on May 4 at Twickenham remains a tantalising prospect, though far more likely for Bath. They have a two-point advantage in the league and that enviable record of never having lost a Pilkington Cup final; moreover, they now have a clear month in which to hone the playing style that proved so attractive before Christmas, before the disruptions of the international season.

"We haven't played together for so long and it's difficult," John Hall, their director of rugby, said. Their multi-layered game cannot prosper without constant match practice, as the semi-final at the Recreation Ground on Saturday proved. Indeed, ambition sometimes outran common sense as Bath's backs tried to find space well behind the gain-line against a Gloucester team that may lack finesse but loses nothing in commitment. Thankfully, for Bath, they had Jonathan Callard. Five successive kicks at goal out of five, yet what will be his reward? He was dropped for the quarter-final against Bristol, when Mike Catt was preferred in his England position of full back; against Gloucester, Catt reverted to stand-off half because of Richard Butland's rib injury. Butland should be fit for the league game on Saturday with Bristol.

"I hope I was able to drop a few hints but selection is out of my hands," Callard said. What Gloucester would have given for such dependability. At crucial moments Mark Mapletoft's place-kicking let him down and, instead of pressing Bath ever closer dur-

ing the second half, they remained at arm's length.

It was a game too far for Mapletoft. Out of rugby for a year after having his knee reconstructed, he had played only twice before the semi-final. Richard Hill, the Gloucester director of rugby, took a calculated gamble and selected him at full back but Mapletoft clearly lacked match sharpness.

Yet at least he is back in the swing now, and so is his club. Gloucester have three under-21 internationals in key positions — hooker, lock and scrum half — and each of them came through this trial of strength in credit. Once they have shrugged off the disappointment of defeat, they will take heart from running the holders so close and their drive



Callard: dependable

away from the bottom of the first division should be all the stronger, even though they must clear awkward hurdles at Wasps, Harlequins and Leicester.

"When Bath scored their try and went 19-3 up, many teams might have buckled but in the end Gloucester finished stronger," Hill said. Agreed, they were playing stronger but finishing is what Gloucester find difficult: they lack pace and variety behind the scrum and the elevation of Mike Peters to the wing did not answer the problem.

Yet it was a coming-of-age for a retooled team that had to contend not only with Bath's 13 internationals but the disapproval of Ed Morrison, the referee, for their methods of winning the ball at ruck and maul. Bath's *modus operandi* is to commit more players than is now the norm in the loose and Gloucester found it hard to counter, until stung into life by Adebayo

Adebayo's try 32 seconds after the interval.

If Bath have a selection problem at full back, they will have another on the wing for the final. They have Jon Sleightholme, one of the England successes this season, they have Simon Geoghegan, of Ireland, and they have Adebayo, who has taken over Tony Swift's try-scoring mantle. The England A player, who will be required for the Hong Kong Sevens next weekend, scored significant tries in the two league meetings with Leicester this season and here was another. From an unpromising position, his strength and speed took him on a 50-metre dash through Peters and Mapletoft.

Gloucester then dispatched their first-half blues. They drove into Bath, squeezed out a penalty and Scott Benton bundled his way over. Benton later left the field with a recurrence of a strained shoulder but he has already impressed observers at Kingsholm, as has Phil Greening, who had the satisfaction of a heel against the head even when Bath had done considerable damage at set scrums.

Admittedly, the veteran Graham Dawe had gone by then. He received a kick on the shoulder-blade in the first minute that left him in considerable discomfort. He had to watch as Gloucester, dominating the lineout, drove time and again into the Bath 22. But within five minutes Mapletoft, with two comparatively straightforward penalty attempts, and Martyr Kimber, with a dropped goal, missed the posts and the gap remained nine points.

"Even if we had scored, Bath are the sort of side who always respond by raising their game," Hill said. Maybe so, but then again Hill may have too much inside information on his former club. Now, though, he has important information on his new one: they can live with the best in England again and that thought will strengthen them through the vital weeks ahead.

SCORERS: Bath: Try: Adebayo. Conversion: Greening. Penalty goals: Callard (4). Gloucester: Try: Benton. Conversion: Mapletoft. Drop goal: Kimber. Referee: J. Davies. Bath: J. Callard, J. Sleightholme, P. de Glanville, J. Geoghegan, A. Adebayo, M. Catt, A. Hill, G. Greening, S. Geoghegan, P. Greening, M. Hill, N. Pendera, A. Robinson, S. O'Brien, M. Hogg, N. McCarthy (40 mins). Gloucester: M. Mapletoft, M. Peters, O. Clarke, M. Roberts, M. Lloyd, M. Kimber, S. Benton, A. Wines, P. Greening, A. Dawson, P. Greening, R. Fisher, O. Sims, J. Smith, C. Raymond, Benton replaced by B. Forley (67 mins), Dawson temporarily replaced by A. Powell (11-13 mins). Referee: J. Morrison.



Johnson, the Leicester lock, bursts through the last line of London Irish defence on his way to scoring a try. Photograph: Ian Stewart

Leicester power past enterprising Irish

London Irish ..... 21  
Leicester ..... 46

BY BRYAN STILES

LEICESTER took the spoils in this exhilarating Pilkington Cup semi-final, but London Irish revelled in the glory — and if they had stuck to their game plan they might even have become the team to challenge Bath in the final in May. At least, that is what the romantics thought.

The Irish had been wonderfully enterprising in the opening half and had trailed Leicester by only one point — 22-21 — at the interval.

They had clearly rattled the Courage League champions, who had not bargained for the abrasiveness of the second division team's forwards or the talent of their backs.

Even Tony Russ, the Leicester director of rugby, was anxious as Corcoran, the prolific points-scorer, lined up penalty attempts for the Irish early in the second half.

"The Irish played brilliantly and if Corcoran had landed some more of his kicks we would have been playing catch-up rugby and anything could have happened," Russ said.

Luckily for Leicester, Corcoran missed with two attempts at goal in the opening minutes of the second half and presented Leicester with possession — just the scenario that Clive Woodward, the Irish coach, had been working to avoid when preparing the team for the game.

He leapt from his bench, urging Halpin, the captain, to keep his players running with the ball, the tactic that had so

upset Leicester during the first half.

The problem for Halpin was that he had been seduced by the memory of how Corcoran had won numerous matches with inspirational goalkicking. He felt it was worth the gamble, but he was wrong.

Halpin had, in Henderson,

an outstanding centre who is destined to make the Ireland team. He also had Humphreys, the new Ireland stand-off half, who was playing his first competitive game for London Irish and who dovetailed in smoothly. The couple thrived on the possession which went their way in

the first half, each scoring a splendid try.

Halpin is an enterprising captain, nonetheless. At one point it looked as if he was going to leave the match when he realised the public-address announcer was calling for his car to be moved because it was causing an obstruction. A club official moved it. The Irish can invariably be relied upon to produce the unexpected.

They were caught cold when Underwood strode over for a try in the third minute but they kept running the ball back at Leicester, creating gaps that first division teams had found well-nigh impossible to achieve against a usually mean defence.

Richards, inevitably, imposed his grip on the game after the interval and the Irish did not score another point. By the 55th minute they had gone

close and were attacking fiercely when Underwood swept out of his own 22 to set up a try for Delaney. That marked the end for the Irish as Leicester cranked up the try-scoring.

The Irish, who welcome Gabriel Falcher, the Ireland lock, this week, must now rejoice the battle to see who will be promoted to the first division with Northampton.

SCORERS: London Irish: Tries: Humphreys, Henderson. Conversion: Corcoran. Penalty goals: Corcoran (3). Leicester: Tries: Underwood, Wells, Johnson, Delaney, Harris, Poole, Conversion: Lily (3). Dropped goal: Harris. Penalty goal: Lily. LONDON IRISH: C. O'Shea, M. Corcoran, P. Flood, R. Henderson, J. Bishop, D. Humphreys, T. Everington, L. Mooney, R. Nolan, G. Harris, A. Douglas, A. Macdonald, G. Hall, C. Bird, B. Walsh, Henderson replaced by S. Burns (74 mins), Douglas replaced by P. Harris (75), Henderson replaced by N. Biers (78). LEICESTER: J. Lily, S. Humphreys, R. Robinson, P. Delaney, R. Underwood, J. Harris, A. Karazon, G. Rowntree, R. Cookson, O. Garforth, J. Wells, M. Johnson, M. Poole, N. Back, O. Richards. Referee: G. Goddard (Canada).

Cup combat finds Cardiff painfully predictable

Llanelli ..... 11  
Cardiff ..... 10

BY GERALD DAVIES

A KIND of intoxication infuses Llanelli when they sip a draught from the Swansea Cup. They thrive on it. They won the competition in four of its first five years, and five times since — as well as making three losing appearances in finals. A semi-final is an annual event.

Llanelli have furthermore not lost at home in the cup in the past ten years, and were in no mood to let that record slip in their quarter-final on Saturday. Like a dog with a bone, they did not lose their grip.

A stumbling block in this upwardly-mobile progress in the past, however, has been Cardiff. Of their seven confrontations, Cardiff had won five. The visiting team, with their well-drilled and wrenching pack, were expected to advance this statistic.

In what is generally described as "cup rugby" — dour, muscular, forward-orientated and with imagination for nothing more — Cardiff were expected to be in their element. And so for the most part, it seemed.

It is a fine thing to dominate possession, as Cardiff mostly did. This matters. Yet what matters more is what you do with the ball when it comes. The Cardiff answer seemed to be not very much. They are mechanically predictable. Jonathan Humphreys, their captain, was moved to express his exasperation at the lack of vision and purpose in his team's performance.

Llanelli had begun with such pace and variety that

they bemused their opponents and created try-scoring chances for Proctor, Iwan Evans and John in the first ten minutes. This was at a time when they won a share of possession at the lineout.

This breathtaking start might have lasted a while longer but for the emergence of Derwyn Jones and Wakeford, for Cardiff, who thereafter ruled the lineout. There was plenty of excitement in the slog and some moments to inspire.

They did succeed when Jones won the lineout and the rest of the pack heaved Andrew Lewis over for a try that Jonathan Davies converted.

Entrapped on the Llanelli line, time and again they tried to push their way over. The ball was forever held at Taylor's feet. Eventually, Llanelli stole it, kicked the ball to the right and then to the left and were soon on Cardiff's 22-metre line.

Winning only their third lineout of the half, Griffiths raced on with memories of his rugby league days in St Helens in mind. He ran straight. Tacklers fell to right and left and he almost reached the line. Cardiff were offside. Thomas kicked the penalty.

When Cardiff threatened once more, it was Griffiths who tore the heart out of their efforts by running deep from his own half. Taking a leaf out of Cardiff's book, Llanelli saw out the afternoon by camping on the visiting team's line and suffocating them to defeat.

SCORERS: Llanelli: Try: Evans. Penalty goal: J. Thomas (2). Cardiff: Try: Lewis. Conversion: J. Davies. Penalty goal: J. Davies. LLANELLI: J. Thomas, I. Evans, N. Boobyer, M. Wynn, W. Proctor, J. Griffiths, R. Moon, P. Evans, R. McElroy, S. John, M. Parry, P. Davies, P. Jones, G. Jones, C. Wynn. CARDIFF: J. Jones, N. Walker, M. Hall, S. John, S. Hill, J. Davies, A. Morris, A. Lewis, J. Humphreys, L. Mustoe, V. Davies, J. Wakeford, O. Jones, E. Lewis, H. Taylor. Referee: D. R. Davies (Llanelli).



Iwan Evans: neat try

Dallaglio prepares to lead European sortie

Wasps ..... 25  
Sale ..... 16

BY NICOLAS ANDREWS

IT HAS not been easy for any English rugby union club this season, but few have had it as hard as Wasps. Shorn of four internationals, thrown into confusion by the game's stuttering progress towards professionalism, hampered by the weather, long-term injuries and representative calls at crucial times, it has been a season they might have wished to forget.

Yet now they stand on the verge of European qualification — assuming, that is, that the Rugby Football Union does get round to confirming that the top four Courage League first division clubs will represent England in the European Cup next season. Sale would be the difference, and they still lead Wasps on points difference, but, with games at Bath, Leicester and Harlequins ahead of them, this defeat at Sudbury was probably crucial.

"The disruption has been immense," Rob Smith, the Wasps coach, said. "It has been very difficult. In November, most people put us down for relegation." The best thing to have happened to Wasps is undoubtedly the emergence of their new captain. "Lawrence Dallaglio has done a major job," Smith said. "He is a very big man. I can't say how big his contribution has been."

The No 7 was sorely missed in the defeat by Harlequins two weeks ago but he was back, leading from the front, on Saturday, covering the pitch and putting in a succession of crucial tackles. However, it was White, his back-row partner, who charged down Paul Turner's attempted clearance to give the home side a 10-6 interval lead that they barely deserved. Yet, as

the game wore on, so Wasps's confidence grew and Sale looked increasingly like a side that had played only two league games since Christmas.

They were enterprising enough, tapping penalties, running from deep and taking quick lineouts, but, as Dallaglio observed, "they never really looked like scoring a try".

Saverimutto did scamper over near the posts with nine minutes left, after the referee had awarded Sale a succession of penalties for persistent offside, but, by then, Wasps were in command.

Harlequins rewrote the Courage Clubs Championship record book when they beat West Hartlepool 91-21 at Brierton Lane on Saturday, overhauling Bath's previous mark of 76 against Bedford. Paul Challinor, the Harlequins stand-off half, scored 26 points, including one of 14 tries.

having scored two second-half tries. Gregory fed Greenstock for the first after Dunston and Dallaglio, prompted by Gomersall, had led a forward surge from halfway, and Scrase scooped up a wayward pass to score in the right-hand corner after an initial break by Hopley. "We have been used to being at the top of English rugby," Dallaglio said, "and we want to pit ourselves against the best in Europe." With two games against West Hartlepool to come, that wish should be granted.

SCORERS: Wasps: Tries: White, Greenstock, Scrase. Conversions: Gregory (2). Penalty goals: Gregory (2). Sale: Try: Saverimutto. Conversion: Lily. Penalty goals: Lily (2). WASPS: J. Upton, L. Scrase, N. Greenstock, O. Hopley, S. Ross, G. Gregory, A. Gomersall, D. Mooly, K. Dunn, I. Dunston, P. Bennett, R. Ormerod, R. Kinsey, I. Dalgleish, P. Scrase. SALE: J. Maltwood, R. Lily, J. Bowdler, G. Hedges, C. Taylor, P. Turner, G. Saverimutto, P. Smith, S. Diamond, A. Yates, P. Hogg, J. Fowler, O. Baldwin, N. Acharya, C. Wynn. Referee: C. White (Gloucester).

Colston's schooled for success at Twickenham

BY IVO TENNANT

FOR the second successive year, Colston's Collegiate School, in Bristol, has won the national under-18 schools rugby cup. The first XV, coached by Andy Robinson, the England flanker, has not been defeated for two years, and that includes a tour of South Africa. The school's philanthropist founder, Thomas Colston, started something, for sure.

Before a crowd of some 12,000 at Twickenham on Saturday, Colston's defeated Queen Elizabeth Grammar School, Wakefield, which, despite its rugby-playing traditions, takes a very different view on awarding sports scholarships. A difference in boys' size as well as standards was evident in the final, as a score of 20-0 would suggest.

No longer, clearly, does Millfield attract sporting talent in the West Country as a matter of course. Three of the Colston's XV, Joseph Ewens, Jonathan Pritchard and Ricky Pellow, are in the England Under-18 team to play Scotland this week. "With the rewards that are likely to come into the game, a number of boys would like to make a career out of it," Alan Martinovic, the rugby master and the deputy head, said. "We like to set standards which the boys will not fall below."

Robinson, who missed this Daily Mail-sponsored final because he was playing for Bath, coaches the backs virtually every day of the week. There was no doubting the quality of their handling on Saturday, which led to two tries by Nathan Millett, the left wing. The concern for the competition's organisers

provided some opposition in their semi-final, albeit losing 30-8. The same could be said of Millfield, who, during the term, led Colston's 13-0 at half-time before being beaten 18-13. Inevitably there is a good deal of interest in a number of the Colston's XV, though none has signed professional terms as yet.

That rugby is an integral part of QEGS's activities is evidenced by the school having nurtured six internationals. Mike Harrison among them. His fixture against Bradford Grammar School has been going for 121 years, and hence is one of the oldest in the country. Yet the head-

master, Robert Mardling, favours all-rounders. "I would not give sports scholarships on principle," he said. "There is a danger of divisiveness."

QEGS is now an independent boys' school. That it does not take boarders puts it at an additional disadvantage to Colston's, although the fact that Wakefield is best known for rugby league is of no consequence. It is a school of great antiquity, having been founded in 1591, but this is one sport yet to be embraced. The two cup competitions on the schools day, as it was described on Saturday, were open to entrants from both the state and independent sectors. In the under-15 final, Royal Grammar School, High Wycombe, defeated Wellington College 17-13. This was followed by an under-16 international in which England beat Wales 15-3. The emphasis throughout the afternoon was on open, attacking rugby. "Schools rugby is about taking risks and I would never contemplate asking my half backs to kick the ball in the air at every opportunity to win games," John Cholewa, for 15 years master in charge of the game at QEGS, said.

The spectators appreciated that. Master in charge of rugby around the country would not have thought much of the boys who represented England and Wales not standing upright when played, but overall the standards were pleasing. "Play hard, play fair," Captain Michael Pearey, president of the England Schools Rugby Football Union, intoned in the programme. These boys did.

SPORT IN SCHOOLS

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Schools results ..... 36

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Nick Szczepanik puts some spin on a sport enjoying a revival

# Strike out or head for the gutter down tenpin alley



Tim Lucas, 11, delivers a curve ball to pick up a spare down the alley at the Streatham Megabowl in south London, where lanes fill up with youngsters at weekends

## SPORT FOR ALL

I know it is hard to imagine," said Brian Michael, the England under-19 coach, and a former world champion, "but tenpin bowling is actually the biggest participation sport in the world. More people bowl than play golf, tennis or anything."

Surprising at first, perhaps, but less so on reflection. After all, most people have been to a bowling alley at one time or another, and it has the advantage of being a game that all ages can play; it's never called off for a frozen or waterlogged pitch, and the most common reason for not playing is that there isn't a lane free.

British tenpin bowling is enjoying a resurgence. After its introduction to these shores in the early 1960s, interest waned — but from a low of only 49 centres, the number has recovered to a healthy 200-plus. We also have a reigning world champion, 17-year-old Gemma Burden from Weston-super-Mare, who triumphed in São Paulo, Brazil, last November. Her introduction to the game was typical, although her rise to the top has been less so: her dedication to the practise necessary to reach

world standard has meant interrupting her studies. "My dad first took me to a bowling alley when I was four, just to play with my family, and I enjoyed it so I joined the local youth bowling club. I was taken over by the Great Britain coaches when I was about ten. I started to play more tournaments then. I played and won my first adult tournament when I was 16."

Apart from being a game which all generations can play together, it gives the impression of being equally popular with both men and women. In 1950s teen movies, bowling-alley images are generally of a unisex sport for those intent on mis-spending their youth; but according to Mr Michael, that image is one that the sport is trying to shake off. "Bowling centres and management have tried to take it out of the Fifties, and with the onset of computers to help with a complicated scoring system, it's a lot easier for the average punter to play the game. A lot of the centres are now very up to date."

The national championships — classed by averages so that players at three levels of ability could compete — have just finished at the Swindon Superbowl. I went to get some tips from Bernie White, the tournament secretary. First he helped me to select a ball. "Bowling centres supply a range of weights," he said, "so you have to hunt around to find a good fit. If anything, get one with the holes looser rather than tighter. When you get more serious, the professional at a centre will custom-drill a ball to fit your grip."

Properly equipped with ball and shoes, we took to the lanes. Ninety per cent of it is

the approach," Mr White told me. "When you watch people just out for fun, some walk up, swing the ball a few times, maybe lob it a little. That sounded uncomfortably familiar. First we studied the form. Left-handers apparently enjoy a slight advantage, and an impressive southpaw on the next lane, whose approach looked textbook, seemed to be getting good results. As a right-hander, Mr White gave me some hints about where to

begin my approach from, and I let the first one go. An extremely fortunate dead-centre hit looked good, but left two pins standing. Apparently, pins knocking over other pins get the strikes, not necessarily the ball hitting them. For this reason, the ideal point to aim for is the "pocket", slightly to one side of the centre pin, known as the head pin; the pocket on the right is called the "stateside", on the left the "Brooklyn". I turned

out to be a confirmed Brooklyn. One way of hitting the pockets is to put curve, or "work" on the ball, but if, like me, you tend to bowl in a more-or-less straight line, it helps to approach from one side so that the ball coaxes at the pins diagonally. Before I tried to pick up the spare (knock down the remaining pins), Mr Michael pointed out how to minimise the chance of missing by changing my angle of ap-

proach — fairly obvious stuff really, but only after you have been told.

As the session progressed, I began to sense that I knew what I ought to be doing, even if I wasn't always doing it. Fewer balls than usual went into the gutters, and that immensely satisfying sound of pins being sent crashing was getting steadily louder. The seventeenth ball was a strike, and felt like it from the second I left my hand, even if the extreme left-hand pin kept me waiting before finally falling over. Flushed with success, I finished with a three and a zero — but at least I knew where I'd gone wrong. And that was with only about half-an-hour's advice. Who knows what could be achieved with more dedication?



Lyndon Bassett demonstrates the all-important grip

### BOWLED

Most centres can arrange for coaching sessions and will give advice on equipment and joining a league or, for younger players, a youth bowling club. The British Tenpin Bowling Association (0181-478 1745) runs coaching courses for staff.

The Swindon Superbowl, Shaw Ridge Park, Whitehill Way, West Swindon (01793 886 886), charges £3.35 per person per game (£2.85 concessions) at peak times (evenings and weekends) and £2.95 (£1.85 concessions off-peak) but, like other centres, often has special offers including family rates. The charge includes hire of shoes, which must be worn on lanes, and balls. A range of weights is available.

Coaching is available at most bowling centres: young players are especially well catered for. "We have up to 4,000 children playing every Saturday," Mr Michael said. "Over 2,000 will play in a national championship series on weekends throughout May. Kids are more excited to watch than adults." Young players will have to play for pure love of the game: lack of television revenue means they are unlikely to become big money-earners. "It's a hard sport to televise. In America they have cameras behind the pins so that you can see the ball coming towards you. We try to get it pushed forward, but it is difficult. It would interest me, but whether you could sell it to Mr and Mrs Average, I don't know. Topless tenpin, perhaps? That might be interesting."

## THE GREATEST TUNE IN AND CHOOSE BRITAIN'S GREATEST SPORTS STAR

Tonight, Channel 4's *The Greatest* gives you the second chance in the series to vote for the Greatest British sporting hero of them all. And your vote will count in more ways than one, because it could win you a pair of tickets to the European football championship or even the top prize of a trip to the Olympic Games in Atlanta with Daley Thompson.

The main aim of the series is to bring some degree of scientific method to the comparisons so that a motor racing driver can be judged against a cricketer, a jockey against a footballer. You probably won't be able to put aside your prejudices completely — we all have our heroes, and our favourite sports — but *The Greatest* will open your mind to achievements and personalities you may not otherwise have considered worthy of greatness.

Tonight is the third show in the 12-part series. Part one showed how the 20 sportsmen and women were shortlisted and last week Jackie Stewart and Linford Christie were considered. Two contenders will be examined in depth each week and their relative merits discussed by the panel of Frances Edmonds, author and broadcaster, Danny Kelly, editor of *Total Sport*, and a guest celebrity (tonight it is Eric Hall). Chaired the debate is Gordon Kennedy. The final show will give the results and declare *The Greatest*. *The Greatest* is screened on Channel 4 on Mondays at 8.30pm and repeated on Saturdays at 10am. The sporting stars under examination tonight are Bobby Moore and Torvill and Dean. *Times* writers give their appreciations to help your judgments.

### TONIGHT'S CONTENDERS



BOBBY MOORE

Bobby Moore was the first to admit he was weak in the air, that his tackling could be stronger, that he was not the quickest footballer. It mattered not one jot. Moore was intelligent and astute and could read a game to perfection. He was also England's finest. Who else would have been named to bow to the Queen before receiving the Jules Rimet trophy in 1966? Who else would even have thought about wiping their hands of their sweat before shaking Her Majesty's hand? Captaining England to World Cup victory on home soil stands as the pinnacle of Moore's career. Yet he played his finest football four years later in Mexico. Pele's talents were held in check by a dazzling display in England's group match against Brazil. Moore signed for West Ham United when he was 17. In 1964 West Ham won the FA Cup and then went on to win the European Cup Winners Cup at Wembley. Moore's performance against PSV Munich was, according to Ron Greenwood, the West Ham manager, "technical perfection". Alf Ramsey immediately made Moore England captain when appointed in 1963. He was 22. Over the next 11 years he collected 108 caps. In 1974 Moore retired from the international scene and left West Ham to join Fulham. Moore retired from the game in 1977 but his sense of dignity never left him and he bore the pain of the cancer that killed him three years ago with a calm courageousness.



TORVILL AND DEAN

Jayna Torvill and Christopher Dean never had to serve an apprenticeship in the matter of winning ice dance honours. Without bothering about silver or bronze, they went straight to gold in the European Championships of 1981, and never thereafter settled for less in European, world, and Olympic competition from 1981 to 1984. They missed the Europeans of 1983, because of an injury to Torvill while practising. Their domination was such that in their pomp they never once were beaten in any one of the three elements of ice dance, though faced with the challenge of such outstanding Russian couples as Moiseyeva-Minerkova, Bestemianova-Bukin and Klimova-Ponomarenko. Their complementary technique made them the perfect, well-balanced couple. Dean, an ice dancer from the start, commanded his own special appeal, while Torvill, a former British pairs champion, gave substance to his choreographic innovations with superb technique. Their strength was based on an almost telepathic synchronisation of movement, and on their total dedication. Once they had created a dance, they ran through it in full every day. This did practice make perfect, while at the same time building up stamina. Torvill said after the Olympic gold medal in 1984 that she remembered nothing between the start and finish. A great part of their appeal, apart from their superlative skating, was the public perception of them as a couple deeply in love. They did get married, but to different partners.

### WHAT YOU HAVE TO DO

You will be asked to score each sports personality in each of five categories. Each category carries a maximum of 20 points, so the total scores you give are out of a maximum of 100. The categories are:

- Achievement - for honours won and overall record
- Dominance - for quality of opposition, longevity and domination of peers
- Style - for performance, technique, sportsmanship and image
- Fortitude - for coping with pressure, will to win, self control and sporting intelligence
- Impact - charisma and transcendence

### THE PRIZES

Each week, Channel 4 and *The Times* will each be giving away a pair of tickets to the European football championship, courtesy of Carlsberg, the official beer of Euro 96, to the person who manages to match the average scores for both of that week's profiled sports personalities. In the event of a tie, a draw will take place. Ten runners up will each win a signed copy of Daley Thompson's book accompanying the series, *The Greatest* (Boxtree, £14.99). At the end of the series, all the weekly winners will have the chance to win the greatest prize of all - a trip to the Olympics with Daley Thompson.

### HOW TO REGISTER YOUR VOTE

By telephone: You can call *The Greatest* phone-line, on 0891 66 55 44

Lines are open from 9pm until midnight tomorrow and from 10am on Saturday, when the show is repeated, until midnight on Sunday. Calls cost 39p cheap rate, 49p at other times.

By post: complete *The Times* entry form and send it to *The Greatest* Week 2, PO Box 1413, London N1 8HY to arrive by noon on Thursday.

	Achievement	Dominance	Style	Fortitude	Impact	TOTAL
BOBBY MOORE	pts	pts	pts	pts	pts	pts
TORVILL AND DEAN	pts	pts	pts	pts	pts	pts

Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
Daytime telephone: \_\_\_\_\_

Proof of posting is not proof of receipt. Usual Times competition rules apply. Tick if you prefer not to receive further information from Channel 4 or The Times

## Pregnant pause interrupts seafaring plans



James Capstick on the dilemma presented by the prospect of a new arrival the day before the start of the BT Global Challenge

Just when I thought that, at last, things were sorted out in my preparation for the BT Global Challenge round-the-world yacht race aboard *Ocean Rover*, my wife, Tracey, dropped a bombshell. In fact, the mother of all bombshells.

She informed me that on September 28, the day before *Ocean Rover* and 13 other identical yachts are due to set sail from Southampton at the beginning of the "world's toughest yacht race", she is due to give birth to our third child.

To say I was gobsmacked is an understatement. Forgetting about the race for a moment, which is easier said than done, as a 37-year-old father of two boys, aged six and nine, who thought he had finished with nappies and sleepless nights, the thought of a new baby came as a shock.

My first question to Tracey was how on earth could it have happened, which is stupid really, but you know what I mean. It is just one of those things, isn't it? Then, I am ashamed to admit, I thought about how it would affect my decision to take part in the race.

It was difficult enough getting my head around abandoning the family

for ten months in the first place, but this really brought the pains on. I looked up dilemma in the dictionary. It read: "Position presenting choice between equally unwelcome possibilities." Well, I think that just about sums it up. Do I or don't I?

Since winning the *Times* competition for a berth on *Ocean Rover*, selfishness has become part of my character, but how far can you go? How much can my wife and my family be expected to take and at what point do the costs outweigh the benefits?

The timing is dreadful. If I continue with the race, I will either leave Tracey in hospital with a day-old baby and not see her again until late December, when we plan to meet during the second stopover, in New Zealand, or worse, I will have to leave her in hospital when she is still in labour.

I can well imagine what some people

will think of me because I am already thinking it myself. These are not exactly the actions of a doting father and husband. In my defence, however, I have always approached the race with total support from Tracey and, at the moment, she still wants me to do it.

I have spent the past two years planning and dreaming of the challenge of the Southern Ocean and, as a family, we have already made emotional and financial sacrifices for it.

During training I have completed five-day stints. 24 hours a day, four hours on and four off, sailing triangles around Eddystone lighthouse in winter. Some of it has been horrendous — cold, wet and scary, with me throwing up over the side. I am not prepared to put that down to experience and throw the

towel in. On a practical note, the biggest change to our plans concerns money. With Tracey pregnant and then bringing up our new baby, she will not be in a position to work as we had planned. I do not actually know at the moment how the family will live while I am away.

I have a recurring nightmare of running down the pontoon on the day of the start to jump aboard an already departing *Ocean Rover* still dressed in riding boots and spurs. (I should remind you at this point that I am a mounted policeman.) This vision has been slightly updated now to include the fact that I am also wearing a hospital gown and am passing out cigars to the skipper and all the crew.

My greatest fear from the beginning of this great adventure has been that something would prevent me from starting the race. I have to admit, though, that this particular something had never occurred to me. Anyway, as they often say in my line of work: "If you can't take a joke you shouldn't have joined." The Challenge continues — for now.

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FOR THE RECORD

ATHLETICS

STELLENSBOSCH, South Africa: World Cross Championships... 1. M. J. Hayes (USA) 1:12.11; 2. S. Hassen (USA) 1:12.11; 3. J. K. ...

BOXING

BANKING: World Boxing Association... 1. M. J. Hayes (USA) 1:12.11; 2. S. Hassen (USA) 1:12.11; 3. J. K. ...

CRICKET

SHEFFIELD SHIELD (second day): New South Wales 152-4 (100 overs) vs Queensland 152-4 (100 overs)...

ICE SKATING

EDMONTON, Alberta: World figure championship... 1. M. J. Hayes (USA) 1:12.11; 2. S. Hassen (USA) 1:12.11; 3. J. K. ...

ICE HOCKEY

NATIONAL LEAGUE (NHL): Buffalo 1, Detroit 2; New York Rangers 3, Pittsburgh Penguins 1; ...

LACROSSE

COBHAM, Surrey: All-England clubs and colleges tournament... 1. M. J. Hayes (USA) 1:12.11; 2. S. Hassen (USA) 1:12.11; 3. J. K. ...

ROWING

KINGSTON HEAD, Eight: 1. London A; 2. London B; 3. London C; ...

SQUASH

HATFIELD, Equitable Life Super Series... 1. M. J. Hayes (USA) 1:12.11; 2. S. Hassen (USA) 1:12.11; 3. J. K. ...

TENNIS

KEY BISCAYNE, Florida: Lipton Champion... 1. M. J. Hayes (USA) 1:12.11; 2. S. Hassen (USA) 1:12.11; 3. J. K. ...

BASKETBALL

NATIONAL ASSOCIATION (NBA): Toronto 101, San Antonio 99; ...

CRICKET

SHEFFIELD SHIELD (second day): New South Wales 152-4 (100 overs) vs Queensland 152-4 (100 overs)...

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BOWLS

ADELAIDE, World championships: Peter... 1. M. J. Hayes (USA) 1:12.11; 2. S. Hassen (USA) 1:12.11; 3. J. K. ...

CRICKET

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KEY BISCAYNE, Florida: Lipton Champion... 1. M. J. Hayes (USA) 1:12.11; 2. S. Hassen (USA) 1:12.11; 3. J. K. ...

PIKILINGTON CUP

Semi-finals: Bath 18 Gloucester 10; ...

HEINEKEN LEAGUE

Final division: Reading 15 Rotham 17; ...

PILKINGTON SHIELD

Semi-finals: 20 Wellingborough 13; ...

TENNIS 1556 CUP

Final round: 50 Bourneville 22; ...

TENNIS CHAMPIONSHIP REGIONAL LEAGUE

East one: Watons 85 Beggar 17; ...

SWALEC CUP

Quarter-finals: 11 Cardiff 10; ...

THIRD DIVISION

Northampton 48 Bedford 0; ...

FOOTBALL

Reading 15 Rotham 17; ...

CRICKET

SHEFFIELD SHIELD (second day): New South Wales 152-4 (100 overs) vs Queensland 152-4 (100 overs)...

FOOTBALL

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ROWING

KINGSTON HEAD, Eight: 1. London A; 2. London B; 3. London C; ...

SQUASH

HATFIELD, Equitable Life Super Series... 1. M. J. Hayes (USA) 1:12.11; 2. S. Hassen (USA) 1:12.11; 3. J. K. ...

TENNIS

KEY BISCAYNE, Florida: Lipton Champion... 1. M. J. Hayes (USA) 1:12.11; 2. S. Hassen (USA) 1:12.11; 3. J. K. ...

FOOTBALL

Reading 15 Rotham 17; ...

CRICKET

SHEFFIELD SHIELD (second day): New South Wales 152-4 (100 overs) vs Queensland 152-4 (100 overs)...

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Alex Sanderson, from Kirkham Grammar School and the vice captain, maintains the momentum as England play Wales in the under-15 international at Twickenham

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NEWBURY

Going heavy: 1.00 1. Sunny Bay (11.4); ...

LINGFIELD PARK

Going: standard: 2.25 1. Future Future (9.1); ...

BANGOR

Going heavy: 2.10 1. Ebert All Weather (14.1); ...

GUIDE TO THE WEEK AHEAD

Today: Football, Cricket, Ice Skating, Hockey, Lacrosse, Rowing, Squash, Tennis. Tomorrow: Football, Cricket, Ice Skating, Hockey, Lacrosse, Rowing, Squash, Tennis. Wednesday: Football, Cricket, Ice Skating, Hockey, Lacrosse, Rowing, Squash, Tennis. Thursday: Football, Cricket, Ice Skating, Hockey, Lacrosse, Rowing, Squash, Tennis. Friday: Football, Cricket, Ice Skating, Hockey, Lacrosse, Rowing, Squash, Tennis. Saturday: Football, Cricket, Ice Skating, Hockey, Lacrosse, Rowing, Squash, Tennis. Sunday: Football, Cricket, Ice Skating, Hockey, Lacrosse, Rowing, Squash, Tennis.







As the Queen begins her state visit to Poland and the Czech Republic, Roger Boyes and Michael Knipe present a two-page report

# The lion, unicorn and tigers talk business

The Queen's state visit to Poland and the Czech Republic, which begins today, is being treated as an important gesture by the Central Europeans: a signal that the region is no longer in limbo between communism and the market, but rather has become a fixed part of democratic Europe.

Warsaw and Prague have been buzzing with excitement about the trip: aristocrats have been jostling with genteel determination for invitations to the royal banquets; gossip about the House of Windsor has invaded the trams, shops and factory canteens.

For obvious geopolitical reasons, British *Ospolitiik* — the policy of opening to the East — has always lagged behind Germany's. But Britain is one of the strongest advocates of eastward enlargement of the European Union and Nato. And Margaret Thatcher's idea of a "know-how fund" has given British policy a much-needed focus in the region; the fund has been helping to school and retrain the Central and East Europeans, to equip them for capitalism.

Partly as a result, British companies, with no tradition of eastern involvement, have gained a foothold in a historically difficult market. Bass, the brewery company, has moved into the Czech beer business in a big way, bringing its packaging and marketing skills together with the Czechs' long brewing traditions. While Butlin's, the leisure group, may open a holiday camp in Poland, Mills & Boon novelists hold Polish and Czech housewives in their thrall.

The know-how fund has been complemented by other schemes, including the Prince of Wales Business Leaders' Forum — which brings together Western executives and Central European decision-makers. One result of this programme is that BOC has set up a highly successful



President Vaclav Havel (left) of the Czech Republic with President Aleksander Kwasniewski of Poland

welding school in Wroclaw in western Poland. The Prince is also involved in several important restoration projects in Prague. Together with President Vaclav Havel, he initiated and is patron of the Prague Heritage Fund, which was set up to finance the restoration and conservation of the city, and the English College.

All this represents a departure not only for Britain but for the Royal Family. In the words of one Polish commentator, the "Lion and the Unicorn are at last lying down with the economic tigers of Central Europe".

Five or six years ago, as the two countries were emerging from under the rubble of the centrally planned economy, their tiger status was far from obvious. Poland was crippled by debt.

Czechoslovakia was in a better position, but it was also saddled with rusting, inefficient industries. The rise of

product is far higher than anywhere else in the East.

The Czech Republic has been given membership of the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development, a membership that chiefly signals to Western investors that Prague is a good bet. Even so, for many investors Poland is the main magnet. With a population of almost 40 million, it is a large market with an appropriately big, well educated and relatively young workforce.

As in the Czech Republic, incomes are still low, as are social security contributions. That makes both countries interesting for foreign companies seeking a site to build new factories, distribution centres and supermarkets.

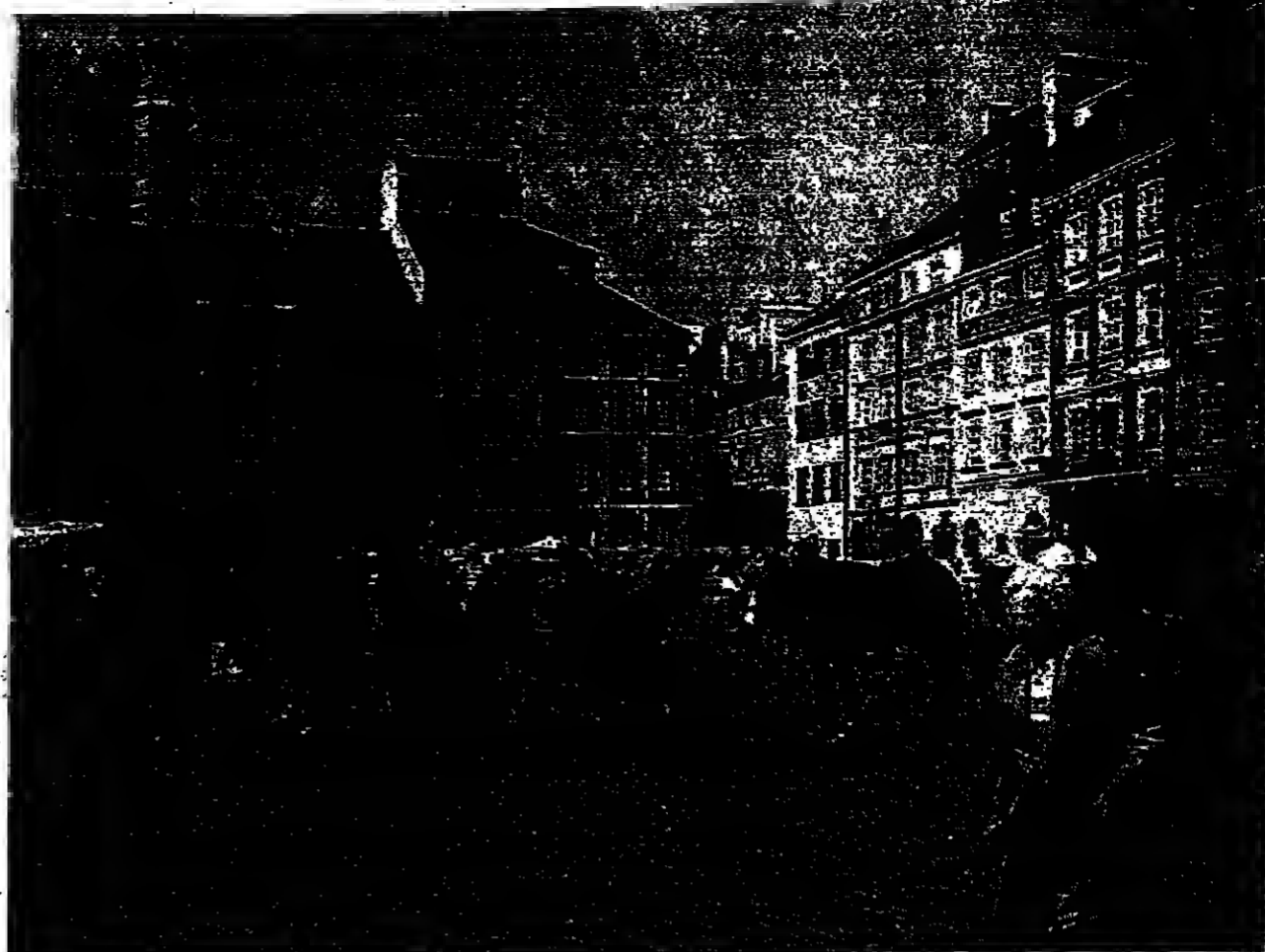
The Czech Republic, at the very centre of Central Europe, likes to emphasise that it is at the heart of a 570-million-strong consumer market and has solid manufacturing traditions. But Poland, with its coastline and long borders with both Germany and Russia, may have the edge. Geography, so often the bane of Polish history, is now coming to its aid.

Vaclav Klaus, the Czech Prime Minister, and Wlodzi-

The political key is to prevent disillusion about the West creeping in

mierz Cimosewicz, his Polish counterpart, agreed recently that they would avoid any destructive competition in the drive to enter the EU. Membership was their common aim, but they were not insisting on joint entry, nor were they intent on outbidding each other.

The fact is that both countries realise there is still some time to spend in the waiting room, before Nato and the EU



Cobblestones, carriages, umbrellas and restored facades in the market square of old Warsaw, which was destroyed by the Nazis

will take them on. The political key is to keep the European flame alive in their societies, to prevent disillusion about the West creeping in.

Mr Klaus is already something of a Euro-sceptic, suspicious of centralised bureaucratic control from Brussels and very reluctant to sign up for a single currency. Czechs are becoming wary of Germany, traditionally their main champion in Europe: the question of whether or how to compensate the Sudeten Germans expelled from Czech lands still hangs heavy over the relationship between Prague and Bonn. The Poles remain more enthusiastic about Europe.

Poles and Czechs, for all their dynamism, have some catching up to do. Despite the glittering new boutiques and plate-glass hotels, they are poorer than the poorest of the EU member states. Even by 1999, the gross domestic product per head of the Czechs is expected to be barely half of the EU average. The real

impact of Europe, or perhaps the modern world, can best be seen on the streets, rather than in dry balance sheets. Shops in both Prague and Warsaw ooze deep into the night — unthinkable in prosperous neighbouring Germany — and throughout the weekends. Shop assistants are even starting to smile.

Fast-food outlets are everywhere and the range of restaurants and cinemas in large cities matches those in the West. The jobs spawned in this way cannot wholly compensate for the loss of jobs in heavy industry, but the Poles are learning to live with high unemployment.

The old tradition of moonlighting, or of working (usually illegally) for short periods in the West, still keeps many families remarkably prosperous. The Czechs, in contrast and despite having privatised 80 per cent of the previously state-run enterprises, have virtually zero unemployment. However, with a pool of available labour in Slovakia, Ukraine and Poland, this is not at present deterring direct foreign investment.

Aleksander Kwasniewski, the former communist Polish President, and Vaclav Havel, the former dissident Czech President, met recently and though they have utterly different personalities and political pedigrees they seem to get on well. Mr Kwasniewski has

remodelled himself on conventional Western lines... sun lamps, tennis and low-fat diets. Mr Havel is a chain-smoking reluctant politician who spent the best years of his life fighting communism and writing plays with a political edge.

Yet these men, both hosts of the Queen, share a kind of social democratic credo. They worry, it seems, about the vic-

tims of the transition from communism to capitalism. Mr Havel has found a voice on this, never failing to irritate the free-market Prime Minister Mr Klaus. Mr Kwasniewski has yet to find quite the right way to address his complex nation; but both politicians acknowledge that leadership in Central Europe means more than riding the back of the tiger.



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Ronald Faux presents a two-page report on the newly amalgamated University of Salford, product of 100 years of change

# A merger of minds and a university challenge

The merger of University College Salford and Salford University as the University of Salford is a union of practical excellence and academic prestige. With a £100 million budget, formidable research and teaching resources, and 18,000 students, the new institution will become a powerful player among universities.

Merger became a logical move as government policy meant that in higher education there was strength in numbers and because there was already a high measure of co-operation and collaboration between the two centres. Salford proudly remains an independent city, albeit absorbed by the giant sprawl that is Greater Manchester.

Competition for funding is likely to become keener. The work of the two Salford institutions is more complementary than overlapping, so the logic for a merger became overwhelming. In one sense, the move has completed a circle. A hundred years ago today, the imposing red-stone Peel Building near the River Irwell at the Royal Salford Technical Institute was opened. The Industrial Revolution was booming in the mills of Manchester and Salford, and with it the thirst and need for education.

The merger takes place on August 1. Professor Peter Wheeler, Pro-Vice-Chancellor and a project manager for the merger, says that though the college dealt with the vocational, practical side of higher education, the university concentrated more on traditional academic provision.

"The two campuses overlap," he explains. "But there is barely any overlap in the courses. In the 1980s we set up a federation between the two institutions... our work is almost entirely complementary. Merger will give us an enormous resource base."

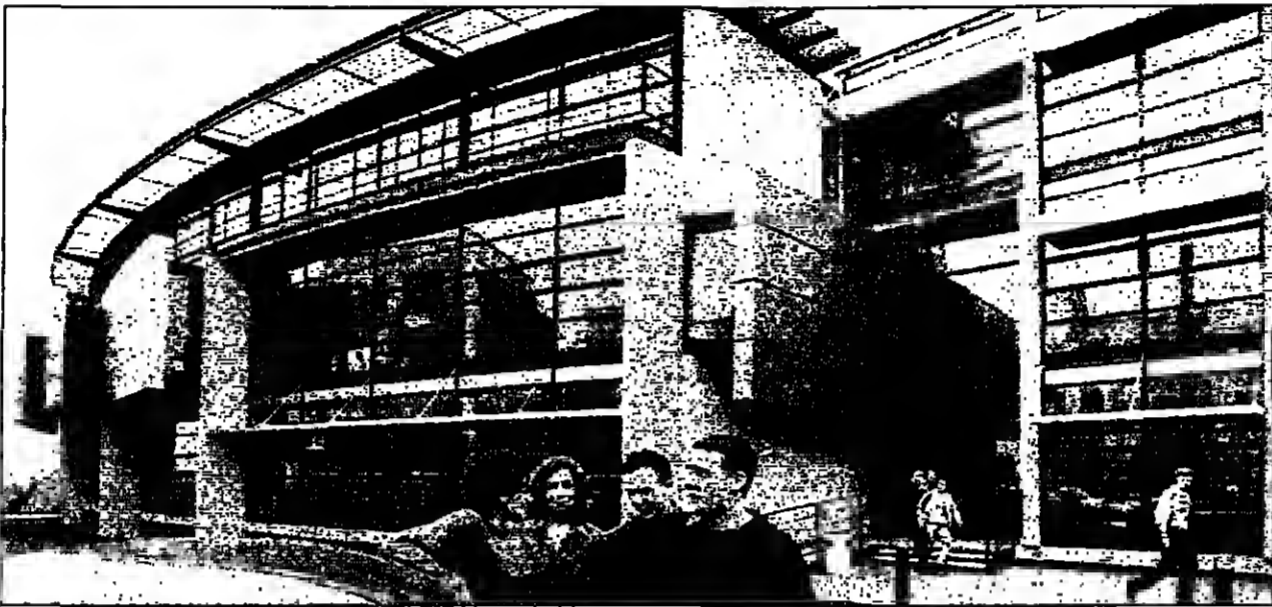
"The intention is that the merger should take place without any compulsory redundancies."

Many traditional university concepts will be quietly dropped into the Irwell as the new university gets into its stride. Students are referred to as customers, there is strong emphasis on developing research and partnership links with outside industry, and care is taken to design courses that will lead to a job. This is achieved by first researching and evaluating precisely what industry requires from its new recruits.

This hard-headed approach to learning is clearly appreciated by the "customers" because last year 30,000 applied for the 3,000 first-year places available. And as courses are designed to suit the market that will provide the jobs, so too access to courses is being arranged to accommodate a wider range of customers. This allows higher education to be spread across any number of years.



Professor Tom Husband, the Vice-Chancellor, and below, the new high-tech building for the arts and design studies faculty



For example, a shipyard worker from Barrow-in-Furness invested all his redundancy in higher education and progressed through various qualifications to a degree that was awarded when he was aged 60.

At the opposite end of the age spectrum, there is help for graduates who may find themselves round shapes in a square world. With a strong accent on science, engineering and the practicalities of life, Salford operates a "gateway"

programme for graduates who hold degrees in subjects that are so abstruse they evoke little interest from employers. Salford's five-week intensive business and management course, followed by a five-month placement in industry,

helps to transform 80 per cent of them into successful wage-earners.

As part of the centenary celebrations, the university is trying to re-establish contact with any Salford graduates with whom it has lost touch. Contact 0161-745 5144.

# Industry wins a flexible friend

Plugging the merger of two institutions and taking account of the hopes, fears and career prospects of more than 2,000 staff is a delicate process. Much has been achieved through agreement and a sense of partnership, but ultimate responsibility for a successful union rests with Professor Tom Husband, the Vice-Chancellor of the university as it was and as it will be from next August.

His early career was almost a paradigm of the form he expects higher education to take in the years ahead. He left school at the age of 16 and began an apprenticeship as a marine engine fitter in a Clyde shipyard. Night school and a Higher National Diploma led to a course at Glasgow University at the age of 22 and the gateway to an academic career. Now aged 59, Professor Husband sees great potential in the new university structure. He said: "We will be stronger in our ability to interface with the real world, with industry, commerce and the public services. Such a broadly based university will prove flexible and responsive to changes in the market. A substantial percentage of our income will come from industry, making us less exposed to the whims and shifts of government policy."

This partnership was the driving force in teaching and research activities, he said. Salford was at the leading edge of research in many areas, among them magnetics and optics, signal processing, building design, prosthetics and orthotics and virtual reality. The higher education scene had never been more promising, developing practical uses for the information superhighway, playing a part in technological and scientific advance and producing students equipped for a place in that challenging new world.

"There may be a temporary hiccup with a recession in

student numbers but they are bound to grow and continue to grow with people becoming students in mid-career, taking up lifelong learning, attending top-up courses and continuing professional development: all distinct from the conventional basic degree programme," he says.

He said universities would be obliged to be more responsive and imaginative in offering courses that were shaped to demand and gave value for money. "Ten years ago the man in the street would be unlikely to put together his own pension plan portfolio, which now happens fairly commonly, and I think it will be the same in higher education, with students putting together their own course portfolios. If you are equipped to serve that market, you will be a winner."

John Squires, Principal of University College Salford and Deputy Vice-Chancellor-designate of Salford University, said the federal arrangement between the two institutions which began in the late 1980s had worked well and led to the merger. It had, he said, simply followed a review of the best way to offer higher education in the North West. "More people have become interested in what has happened at Salford and the new university could be taken as a policy case study for others to follow."

Though there was some overlap in science work and business and management studies, the college and university staffs were largely complementary. Economies of scale would come in a single residential service, single senior management, library and information services covering both institutions.

Mr Squires said: "We have had a single senior management team for a year now, so when merger happens we will hit the ground running."

**'If you are equipped to serve you will win'**

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# Where women sail to success

How Janet's epic voyage led to a unique research assignment in Tasmania among 25 strapping men

Salford has an excellent record of advancing the career prospects of women in male-dominated areas. Janet O'Brien, from Liverpool, went to Salford to study engineering and found herself in Tasmania studying stability problems in a 250ft catamaran. She got there by yacht, having sailed it to Hobart.

Her studies led to her dissertation and a first-class honours degree, followed by work as a research student into magnetron sputtering. "It is the practical side of engineering I enjoy," she says. "Engineering is an area in which women are outnumbered. In Tasmania there was me and 25 Australian men."

Ms O'Brien had included Salford on her Ucas form behind Oxford, Loughborough, Newcastle and Liverpool. She says: "I had acceptances from them all; but when I went to Salford and saw the facilities, and heard of the links with industry, I chose Salford."

Universities thrive on the publicity given to their successful work. Eye-catching courses and research are what spark the interest of a news editor and attract both students and funding. But how a story is chosen and handled may put a frown on donnish brows. As one professor ruefully admitted, a project must be "sexy" to grab headlines.

Several Salford research projects have caught the imagination, notably the work into virtual reality (VR), marked by the formation on campus of a National Centre for Virtual Environments. Research into VR at Salford began in 1988 and the centre comes from the partnership between the university and the locally based virtual reality division of Intelligent Systems Solutions, which has attracted £2 million in research and development grants for academic VR projects.

At Salford, research has focused on three broad VR areas: engineering, the built environment and bio-technology. Results are made available for commercial and industrial exploitation.

The centre draws from a worldwide network of VR research and is now working on creating an "incredible shrinking man" illusion, allowing humans to experience life on a microscopic scale, and interacting with molecules and atoms.

The Faculty of Media, Music and Performance has developed a lively demand for BA



Janet O'Brien, a postgraduate student engineer, sailed a catamaran to Tasmania

courses in popular music and recording and band musicianship, a Higher National Diploma in jazz and popular music, a university diploma in band musicianship and, with the Faculty of Engineering, a BSc course in music,

acoustics and recording. Media training was established with a joint university and college International Media Centre for research and analysis of global systems of communication and for establishing links between Britain,

Eastern Europe and America. The Manchester Airport Chair of International Media, supported by a £250,000 grant from the airport, reflects the re-emergence of Greater Manchester as a media city and Salford's links with Gra-

nada Television, the BBC and Reuters Television.

Salford has won its bid to house the prestige National Centre for Business and Ecology. The four universities of Greater Manchester — Salford, Manchester, Umist and Manchester Metropolitan — worked with the Manchester-based Co-Operative Bank to establish the centre which has appeared at a time when pressure is mounting from consumers and legislators for industry to be more environmentally considerate.

The gaming industry offers good career prospects. The university's centre for studies in gambling and commercial gaming has been set up to research and encourage serious discussion of the industry.

Healthcare has developed as an important area of training and research at Salford since the recent move to the university of the Northern College of Nursing and Midwifery and the expansion of the department of prosthetics and orthotics into a national centre for the provision of artificial limbs and support devices for the disabled. An honours BSc course in this area is offered to students, who are assured of a career by the sad toll of injury caused by war, terrorism and accidents.



A researcher in concert hall acoustics studying the effects of reflected sound on instrumentalists, a Salford speciality

## SHARING IN THE FRUITS OF MONEY SPINNING RESEARCH

In 1994 Salford restructured its research activities into six multidisciplinary research institutes. Professor Peter Brandon, Pro-Vice-Chancellor for research, says collaboration between departments is paying off. Salford is now able very quickly to put together a multidisciplinary team to handle industrial problems.

This pool of expertise is invariably in practical areas of direct use to industry in product development or, for example, in the non-clinical side of the NHS. About 1,000 postgraduate students work on a vast range of subjects. The Graduate School forum part of the Research and Graduate College and is responsible at faculty level for

all postgraduate programmes, both by the taught and the research routes.

The university worked hard to be pro-active. The Design, Manufacturing and Marketing division, for example, is a product development group working for industry. The Construct IT centre based at Salford University has become the implementation body for the Government's information technology strategy for the UK construction industry. About 60 leading companies along with seven other universities are co-operating in the initiative.

financial backing as they demonstrate beneficial ways in which industrialists and academics can be brought together.

Another example is the success of the ultra-low energy ion implanter Salford helped to develop and build as part of a £2.2 million collaboration with Loughborough University and a private company. Sales of the equipment have already far exceeded expectations.

The biophysics group at Salford brought new technology to the market via Photonic Research Systems, set up jointly with Salford University Business Services (SUBS) to market a range of new fast modulated light sources and imaging systems for analytical fluorescence applications.

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## PATHWAYS TO CHOICE AND OPPORTUNITY

As a horse might not drink when led to water, so students might not learn when they are taught. From this elementary truth, that individuals respond in multifarious ways to a variety of teaching methods, Salford has placed strong emphasis on offering a choice of pathways into courses and methods of presenting them.

Professor John Sanger, Pro-Vice-Chancellor in charge of teaching and learning, detected a fundamental change in the pattern of learning with a larger number of mature students entering higher education, whether for the first time or to equip themselves with new skills and knowledge. Others sought higher education from a non-academic base of "life experience" and the challenge for the new university would be to serve these different strands with courses which accommodate

them without loss of quality.

As a result, Salford offers thick and thin sandwich courses mixing university study with industrial experience, and providing training to Higher National Diploma level, degree and higher degree level along with courses taught by every manner of means from traditional lecture to Gemis 2000, the Government Educational, Medical, Industrial and Social Superhighway.

Undergraduate courses are in modular format, allowing students to select a broad range of subjects beyond the undifferentiated "core" modules. Professor Sanger says: "The merger gives us the opportunity to broaden the range of subjects, which makes the university more attractive. At present there is a strong concentration on science and engineering and I think the merger will produce a much more balanced institution

with a healthy awareness of attitudes and the way that students are taught."

By 2000 16 per cent of school leavers will be studying for General National Vocational Qualifications which give a different qualification for higher education than A levels. But with competition intensifying between universities, they will find it difficult to recruit students by simply sending them a prospectus and expecting them to fit into a fixed offering.

Salford is rallying to the need to provide tailored courses at acceptable costs based on modules and short courses. The 2 plus 2 model sandwich course was started at Salford and copied by many. "We have moved on from that to more detailed partnerships to harmonise the curriculum," Professor Sanger says. The university has won prizes from the Partnership Awards scheme.

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42 EQUITY PRICES

Capitalisation, week's change

TRADING PERIOD: Settlement takes place five business days after the day of trade. Changes are calculated on the previous day's close, but adjustments are made when a stock is ex-dividend. Changes, yields and price/earnings ratios are based on middle prices.

Table of equity prices for various sectors including Alcoholic Beverages, Banks, Breweries, Pubs & Rest, Building & Construct, Chemicals, Distributions, Engineering, Food Manufacturers, Healthcare, Household Goods, Insurance, Investment Trusts, Leisure & Hotels, Mining, Oil & Gas, Property, Retailers, Food, and Transport.

Main table of equity prices for various sectors including Alcoholic Beverages, Banks, Breweries, Pubs & Rest, Building & Construct, Chemicals, Distributions, Engineering, Food Manufacturers, Healthcare, Household Goods, Insurance, Investment Trusts, Leisure & Hotels, Mining, Oil & Gas, Property, Retailers, Food, and Transport.

Table of equity prices for various sectors including Alcoholic Beverages, Banks, Breweries, Pubs & Rest, Building & Construct, Chemicals, Distributions, Engineering, Food Manufacturers, Healthcare, Household Goods, Insurance, Investment Trusts, Leisure & Hotels, Mining, Oil & Gas, Property, Retailers, Food, and Transport.

Advertisement for 'Share' magazine, featuring a large 'Share' logo and text about market analysis and investment opportunities.











### Priority claims at BCCI to be fought

By Patricia Tehan  
Banking Correspondent

The liquidators of the collapsed Bank of Credit & Commerce International are in the High Court today to try to defeat an attempt by four groups of creditors who are demanding payment of claims running into hundreds of millions of dollars, before other creditors.

If the four are successful their claims could delay payment of a first dividend in the liquidation of BCCI due in May or June. BCCI collapsed in July 1991 with liabilities of \$14 billion. The liquidators, from Deloitte & Touche, have reduced the liabilities to \$10 billion and, after a settlement negotiated with the Abu Dhabi authorities last year, have been planning to make a payment of about 20p in the pound.

But a group of Islamic banks, headed by the Faisal Islamic Bank, are claiming priority before other creditors. Employees represented by the BCCI employees campaign committee are seeking priority over employee benefit funds BCCI purportedly set up.

The IML, the Luxembourg monetary authority, which is being sued by BCCI's Luxembourg liquidators, is making a priority claim as part of that action, arguing any claim it faces would be cut if the English and Luxembourg liquidators had sued the Abu Dhabi authorities.

The fourth claim is on behalf of the Panamanian Government, claiming money taken out of the Panama Treasury and washed through BCCI can be traced to funds recovered in the liquidation.

Stephen Akers, a partner in Deloitte & Touche, said: "We will fight these claims to the fullest extent because they represent queue jumpers. It is important that we succeed to minimise the available dividend to ordinary creditors." BCCI has an estimated 100,000 creditors worldwide, 35,000 in the UK.

The liquidators have made net recoveries of \$3.3 billion since the collapse and Deloitte & Touche is planning to release about \$2 billion including funds from the \$1.8 billion Abu Dhabi compensation deal to creditors. The rest will be retained to fund litigation against third parties including the IML, the Bank of England and BCCI's auditors.

## Inflation fall has yet to shrink pay award rates

By Philip Bassett, Industrial Editor

LOWER inflation is yet to make any impact on pay settlements in Britain, a new study of wage deals suggests today. The findings of the independent study will cause concern about the continuing inflationary potential of pay. In spite of stable average earnings growth, economic monitors such as the Bank of England have made clear their worries about the impact on inflation of rising pay deals, and their implications for interest rates.

In an analysis of more than 200 pay deals this year, the independent pay study group, says lower inflation has not had any significant impact on pay deals. New Government figures last week showed a new fall in retail price inflation.

But in its latest pay report, IDS says in the run-up to the busy bargaining period of April, pay settlement levels are holding steady in a "going range" of 3-4 per cent, despite a fall in inflation to below 3 per cent.

IDS says: "What is clear is that the inflation rate of just over 3 per cent in the last months of 1995 has cast a long shadow into 1996, and that the levels of settlements reached in January have an influence on what happens in subsequent months. Many employers set budgets for pay in 1996 at the end of 1995, when a different inflationary climate was in place."

The pay report says that more than nine out of 10 of the pay deals recorded so far this year are giving above-inflation rises of 3 per cent or more. A majority of current increases are higher than they were a year ago, with a "significant proportion" of deals for more than 4 per cent. Exactly, there are what IDS describes as "distinctly fewer" deals below 3 per cent compared with the first quarter of last year, though it says the Government's decision to stage the pay review awards for 1.5 million public sector employees suggests that ministers will try to maintain a 3 per cent ceiling for much of the public sector, at least this year.

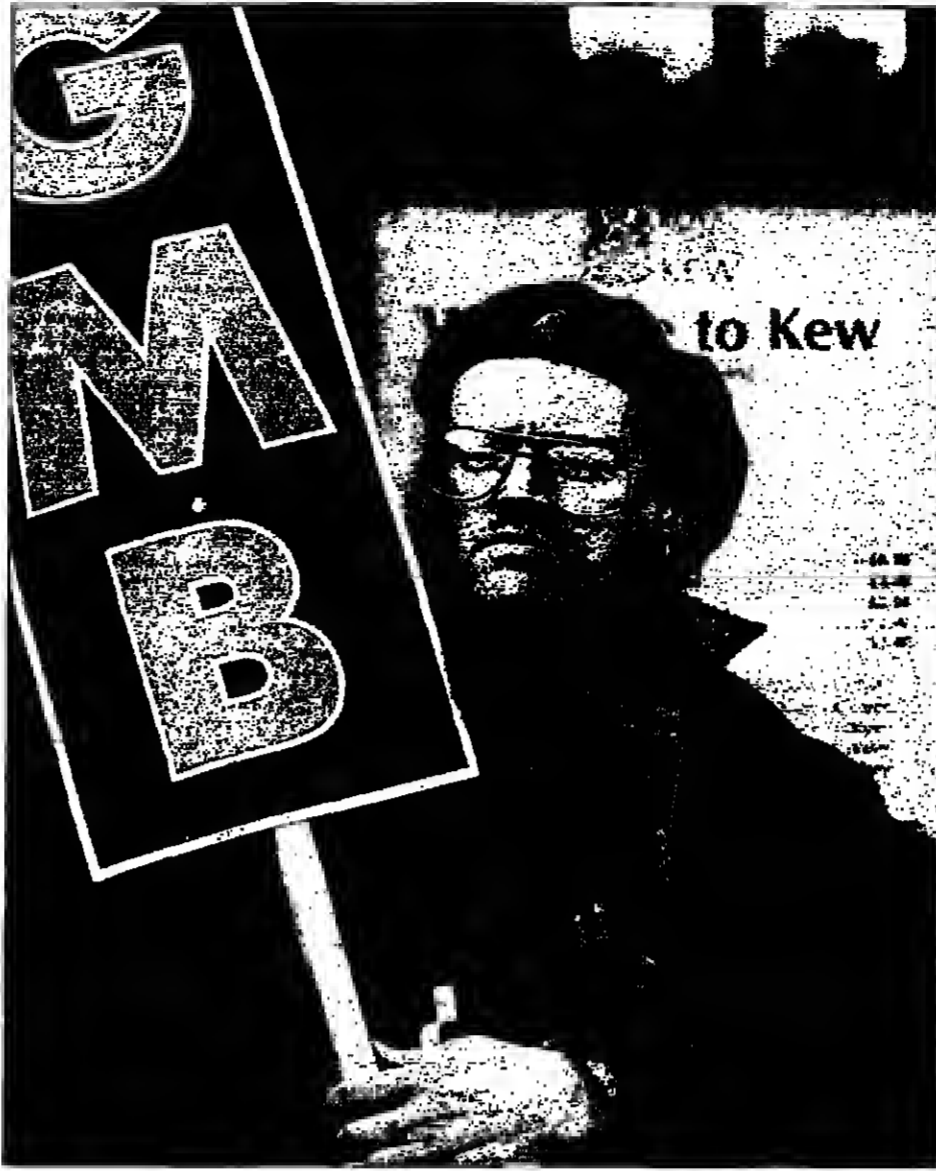
Sectorally, the pay analysis says that the overall going range masks a spread of rises. While only one in 10 of deals struck in the retail sector, for instance, is for an increase of 4 per cent or more, in the financial services sector al-

most two-thirds of pay deals so far this year are for rises of 4 per cent or more.

Industries where pay rises have tended to be higher so far this year include finance, chemicals and engineering — particularly car manufacturing. Lower than average increases have been seen in transport, retailing and parts of the electronics sector.

In spite of Government claims that the economy is buoyant, MSF, the white-collar union, says job security remains the principal concern at work, with a third of employees questioned by the union in its quarterly employment survey saying jobs are now less secure than they were three months ago.

Roger Lyons, MSF general secretary, says: "The Tories simply can't understand, with interest rates and inflation low, why they are still so unpopular. The reason, as this new MSF survey shows, is there is a feel-bad climate."



MSF, the white-collar union, says job security remains the principal concern at work

### Insurer highlights 'inflated' claims

By Marianne Curphey

SOME claims by Welsh fishermen for hardship payments after the oil spill from the *Sea Empress* damaged their industry are "grossly inflated", the ship's insurer said yesterday. Skuld, the Norwegian marine insurer, said it had paid a total of £65,533 to seven claimants out of 11 claims submitted so far. The insurer has approved a further £20,000 which is yet to be paid.

Jonathan Hare, of Skuld's legal department, said that although the amounts approved for payment were "significantly lower" than the amounts claimed, they were not low in relation to the claimants' previous earnings.

In a letter to Gareth Wardell, MP, chairman of the House of Commons Welsh Affairs Committee, Mr Hare suggested that some fishermen were signing blank forms which were completed by MPC, a loss-adjusting firm, and submitted without their knowledge as to the contents.

Mr Hare cited the example of a whelk fisherman, who

had produced details of catches for the previous six months showing an average gross income of £470 per week. The amount Skuld has approved for payments to cover a one-month period is £2,500, but the MPC claim for the same period was £18,000. A spokesman for MPC said the company was happy for an independent arbitrator to review claims. MPC is operating on a no-win-no-fee basis.



Wardell: letter from Skuld

### Trio join up as trading flourishes

THE Alternative Investment Market continues to flourish. The number of companies listed on the market for smaller and growing companies has expanded to 132 after nine months, capitalising it at £2.59 billion, with £186.7 million raised since June.

Dealings begin today in First Information Group (FIG), the independent multimedia production company specialising

in CD-Roms for the consumer market. FIG is raising £6.6 million, capitalising it at £37 million. Dealings in Easysoft Group, the Internet service provider, are finally due to start on Wednesday, after a delay blamed on heavy over-subscription. Systems Integrated Research (SIR), the multimedia educational software group, also joins AIM this week. A placing by Durlacher, at 15p a share,

is set to raise about £3 million of new money, capitalising SIR at about £15.4 million. Also AIM-bound this month is Dicon Group, a distributor of document image processing equipment that plans to raise up to £7 million, through placing by Henderson Crosthwaite, capitalising it at £26 million.

Philip Pangalos

1995-1996		1996-1997		1997-1998		1998-1999		1999-2000		2000-2001				
High	Low	High	Low	High	Low	High	Low	High	Low	High	Low			
117	89	1620	AMCO Corp	114	+ 3	4.9	12.5	34	2	26.80	Lon Fiducary	24	...	...
58	16	2.08	Abacus Recruit	125	- 5	5.6	10.4	80	35	1.38	London Town	215	...	3.2
118	18.40	16	de Gruyter	13	+ 1	...	...	228	100	12.30	Loxley	...	...	...
144	5	13.40	African Gold	13	+ 1	...	...	28	17	11.20	Mear & O'Seas	19	- 1	2.1
14	11	5.01	Albansale & Bd	13	+ 1	...	...	130	125	15.10	Mear & Merc S	125	...	...
24	17	9.57	Alpha Omikron	19	...	...	...	127	58	43.50	Megacomedia	101	...	...
636	360	27.80	Am St Brewery	36	...	...	...	109	36	...	Megacomedia Ws	91	...	...
905	885	5.30	Am St Cv Pl	89	...	...	...	93	63	5.88	Meltek	93	+ 5	41.6
156	73	68.20	Antares	9	- 5	...	...	595	125	51.80	Memory Corp	155	+ 25	...
10	6	2.13	Avion Prope	9	...	...	...	29	22	6.53	Metropole Films	22	...	...
75	51	11.40	Avon Central	71	...	...	...	220	65	15.30	Microprop	202	+ 2	2.7
6	5	1.10	Althelney Trust	61	...	...	...	0	0	9.27	Mountcash	0	...	...
6	5	6.28	Bathway	6	...	...	...	73	52	20.80	MultiMedia	72	+ 1	...
31	4	4.88	Boris Hidge	19	...	...	...	340	280	25.10	MultiMedia Ws	335	...	2.4
4	3	1.14	Brace	43	...	...	...	210	140	...	Nash (Wm)	200	- 10	4.1
155	140	1.01	Bowmans Leds	147	...	3.8	...	345	200	8.73	Neill Chen	345	...	2.2
75	70	6.02	Down Leds Cv Pl	70	...	...	...	208	145	5.49	Nelson Cobbold	200	- 5	2.4
84	30	3.58	Edwards	60	...	...	...	73	58	...	Norfolk F	73	...	...
345	190	40.70	Brookbank	345	+ 32	2.7	...	73	58	...	Northwest	73	...	...
118	108	0.34	CCI Holdings	118	...	...	...	78	68	7.78	Nth Polm	68	...	...
110	108	0.13	CCI Foundry Sls	110	...	...	...	5	6	0.13	Nth Polm Wts	6	...	...
123	85	3.29	Cafe Inc	115	...	2.2	9.5	71	61	1.07	Norfolk Ws	61	...	...
75	55	7.39	Calderonian Ltd	65	...	...	7.9	116	103	17.90	Nursing Home	116	...	1.3
2	2	1.55	Capital & West	2	...	...	...	110	54	13.50	Old English Pub	110	+ 4	1.1
83	60	17.10	Carl Clear	76	- 2	...	...	98	70	5.55	Omicron	98	...	0.7
4	3	1.50	Cashly Bros	41	...	...	...	86	70	10.00	Oxbridge	86	...	...
45	41	1.79	Cavendish W F	41	...	...	20.8	73	66	16.90	Optical Care	73	+ 5	...
19	17	4.99	Centralized Group	17	...	...	...	54	1	18.70	Pacific Media	54	...	...
9550	6550	24.80	Celtic Pl Sth	17	- 300	...	...	53	43	...	Pacific Med Pl	53	...	...
130	109	16.00	CI Comms(TV)	719	...	2.5	15.3	70	12	28.40	Pen Andean Res	69	+ 11	...
86	50	7.04	Chantwell Int	66	- 4	...	...	210	180	4.31	Park East(Lv)	180	...	...
110	95	0.98	Chen Homes	110	...	...	...	445	345	16.10	Pat City	352	...	...
33	28	12.70	ClubPartners	30	...	...	...	169	124	30.80	Pharmacia Pharms	154	+ 7	...
510	500	12.20	Com de Pl Fh	510	...	...	...	420	400	3.80	Prison Hls E	420	+ 10	...
49	30	6.58	Constar Tr	49	...	4.9	...	105	103	16.90	Primary Hls Pl	103	...	...
80	53	14.20	Country Gals	77	+ 1	19.9	15.9	105	100	1.07	Revelation Pl	100	...	...
73	58	2.68	Daily Gals Pl	73	...	9.1	...	18	15	10.60	Romanus Inpro	18	...	...
130	92	35.80	Creos Hill	89	...	...	...	4	3	3.60	Rushmore Wynne	4	...	...
63	52	15.80	Crom Products	60	...	...	...	133	48	0.14	Rush Wyn Wts	48	- 2	...
210	115	13.50	DBS Management	200	- 5	3.8	8.1	31	16	2.16	Scotwood Inds	31	+ 3	4.0
43	34	3.58	Dalhousie Ints	34	...	...	...	56	36	...	Scott Prds	36	...	5.1
150	50	5.70	Dalhousie Hds	66	...	...	...	300	260	15.40	Scotwood Inds	300	- 1	13.0
1250	480	57.20	Dalhousie Hds	1250	+ 25	3.0	33.8	60	33	2.04	Self Sealing	60	...	...
14	10	3.79	Dann Corp	13	...	...	...	3	2	...	Sillman	3	...	...
90	63	11.80	Demtek	165	+ 47	...	...	104	6	39.90	SlyPharma	9	...	...
200	90	106.70	Diogenetics	165	...	...	...	6	0.97	SlyPharma 6 Wts	6	...	...	
130	120	5.40	Euro Sales Fm	120	- 5	...	...	580	490	136.50	Southern News	579	+ 2	3.5
345	205	5.77	Fair Pubs	345	...	...	...	66	43	615	Southern Vectis	58	+ 3	...
280	98	3.20	Fair Pubs	245	+ 10	...	...	615	38	110.20	Standard Rock	600	+ 120	...
212	37	20.30	Finpro	212	- 8	...	...	185	70	17.20	Sunny Fr Ints	170	+ 2	1.5
230	178	5.38	Fluorica	222	+ 5	1.8	14.0	1005	615	35.20	TRACKER Ints	605	- 20	...
328	155	7.53	Floral St	328	+ 20	0.4	14.0	39	36	4.65	Tele Card Eur	45	- 2	...
150	50	18.40	Forman	175	+ 10	1.4	22.8	105	30	1.07	Tele Card Wts	38	+ 1	...
16	14	53.20	Freemaps	14	...	...	...	120	81	17.80	Teel	106	+ 5	...
106	88	5.30	Freemaps	106	+ 1	3.0	...	180	155	...	Teelway Care	175	...	1.1
10	6	24.50	Sanjour Hds	10	...	...	...	170	165	211.20	Trocodor Pl	50	+ 1	...
138	100	5.70	Freemaps	138	...	...	...	56	36	...	Univent	50	...	...
185	145	32.40	Gaiton	145	...	3.5	...	115	40	7.17	Unit Auctions	40	- 30	1.2
60	29	2.34	Hanson	23	- 5	...	...	575	210	18.50	Unit Auctions	805	+ 15	3.0
119	105	10.50	Hess: Del Int	130	7	...	...	805	385	...	Weston Sal Wnt	45	- 2	...
88	68	14.50	Indip Radio	105	- 2	...	...	14	7	35.70	Versailles Grp	19	...	22.0
543	468	21.50	Indip Radio	513	...	1.2	...	325	125	8.85	Vision	295	...	...
143	118	31.30	OC Int	128	- 15	...	...	429	133	...	Wentworth	403	+ 145	...
116	83	3.87	Jasmin	85	...	...	...	14	6	...	Westminster Secs	9	- 1	...
305	275	22.10	Jennings Bros	300	...	2.8	21.5	26	13	5.80	Western Sabin	16	...	63.6
141	88	39.70	KS Biomedix	105	...	...	...	6	5	0.51	Western Sal Wnt	26	...	...
185	132	33.15	Lancaster En	140	...	3.8	11.1	33	15	2.83	Westminster Engy	56	- 2	...
243	195	14.88	Lawrence	243	...	0.8	...	93	50	6.20	Wheatst M Mid	56	- 2	...
305	275													











## Labour to drop compulsory training levy in favour of incentives

BY PHILIP BASSETT  
INDUSTRIAL EDITOR

BRITAIN'S small businesses will be offered grant incentives to train their employees by a future Labour government under proposals to be unveiled this week. Labour's new plans on training — which include scrapping the party's commitment to a compulsory training levy — will create individual learning accounts (ILAs) for at least a million employees, to which they, firms and the Government will contribute. Labour's training plans, contained in a document called *Skills Revolution* which

will go before the party's National Executive Committee on Wednesday before being published the next day, are causing controversy within the party because they formally abandon its long-standing policy of promoting industrial training by means of a levy on businesses. The party's move comes as it mounts a new push today on job security, disclosing new figures that detail the largely insecure and low-paid jobs taken by those unemployed people who get back into work — challenging the Government's record on people moving back into jobs. Gordon Brown, the Shadow Chancellor,

will also make mention of Labour's new training policy, which has been drawn up largely by Stephen Byers, the party's training spokesman. Labour has until now maintained its support for a levy even after the Government scrapped most of the levy-based industrial training boards. While Labour's policy document says that most of these boards were partial and that training in Britain performed less well under them than in countries such as Germany, it does include a commitment to keep the levy in the two industrial sectors of engineering and engineering

construction which still both have training boards and maintain a levy system. Labour's *Skills Revolution* will say that seven million people in Britain have no qualifications, while official figures show that a third of small businesses last year had hard-to-fill job vacancies. In trying to address such skills gaps, Labour will say the penalty-based levy system is no longer appropriate. It will instead propose two measures: the introduction of ILAs and these of the Investors in People standard as a prerequisite for businesses that apply for government grants. Every individual will be able to open a

voluntary ILA, which will be granted tax relief at a level to be decided and to which employers will be able to contribute. Labour believes that this move will prompt people to increase constantly their own skills; opponents say it will be taken up largely by well-off, secure and sophisticated employees. Some unions will oppose scrapping the levy, although Labour leaders have been trying to limit opposition using behind-the-scenes persuasion. A future Labour government will contribute to ILAs from money currently used for some administration in the budgets of Training and Enterprise Councils

to make what the document calls a significant contribution to individuals' ILAs. Labour will offer an incentive to companies to train staff by linking availability of grants to the Investors in People standard, which will in turn be more formally linked to training. Companies which achieve IIP standards will be eligible for government grant aid. Labour will consult widely on its proposals, with the aim of producing a final version in June to go before its party conference in the autumn. **Bosses worried, page 45**

## BAe leads race for \$2bn Fokker orders

BY ROSS TIEMAN, INDUSTRIAL CORRESPONDENT

BRITISH AEROSPACE is front-runner to win up to \$2 billion of orders for regional jets after the collapse of Fokker, the Dutch plane-maker. With production of the Fokker 70- and 110-seat planes set to halt, once 15 on the assembly line are completed, airlines will be looking elsewhere for up to 40 remaining jets that were ordered from the Dutch manufacturer. At the same time, Avro, BAE's subsidiary, will be bidding its RJ "whisper jet" to provide new fleets for British Airways, KLM, the Dutch national carrier, and Eurowings, its German partner airline.

These airlines are all expected to announce orders by mid-summer for up to 60 more regional jets to provide feeder services carrying passengers to and from "hub" airports to catch long-haul flights. Efforts by the British manufacturer to push up prices and rebuild profit margins by restricting production could hold back sales. Avro has been building just 18 regional jets a year, half the number produced by Fokker, although it has ample capacity to increase output if prices make it worthwhile. But according to Michael Phipps, managing director of PEL Aviation Services, an air-

craft broker, plentiful supplies of slightly larger second-hand aircraft, such as the Boeing 737-500 and McDonnell Douglas MD80, will restrict the ability of Avro and AIR, its Anglo-French/Italian marketing and support operation, to corner the market. Fleet expansion plans of several leading European carriers have been thrown into uncertainty by Fokker's collapse. Alitalia had ordered 14 Fokker 70 jets to underpin an ambitious expansion drive by its Avianova subsidiary. Only four have been delivered, and it expects to receive no more than eight. Directors are to conduct a

review. One option may be to surrender the leases and turn instead to Avro, which had offered a substantial work package to Alenia, the Italian state-controlled planemaker, as part of its rival bid for the contract. British Midland had ordered four 64-seat E70 planes to complement the four E-100s and three E70s in its fleet. Now it expects to receive two F100s — but is determined to renegotiate the leases to take account of plummeting residual values. Air UK, 45 per cent owned by KLM, has 11 Fokker 100 planes and 11 BAE 146 jets. If KLM chooses the Avro, as Lufthansa, Swissair and its associate Sabena have, then Air UK may consolidate on the British jet. BA had also invited Fokker to bid, along with Avro, Boeing, Airbus and McDonnell Douglas, for a contract for up to 60 planes in the 80-, 100- and 120-seat types. Leasing experts believe airlines that already have large numbers of Fokker 100 and Fokker 70 jets in their fleets may now seek to mop up available aircraft, while those who have invested less in fleet support may switch to other types. American Airlines, the largest Fokker operator with 55 F100 jets and USAir, with 55 older E23s, are believed to have been leading airline demands for the Dutch Government to ensure continuing maintenance and certification of the hundreds of Fokker aircraft in service. Saab Aircraft, the Swedish turbo-prop builder, has confirmed talks with the administrators about taking over the maintenance and engineering operation, but may demand some state support for the costly process of maintaining approvals from the world's aviation authorities.



The Digital Video Disc made its UK debut yesterday at the Electrical Retailing Show. Toshiba was first to exhibit but will be joined in the market by others. John Bennings, managing director of Toshiba UK, is seen with one of the discs. Although it looks like an ordinary CD, it can store both feature films and soundtracks on the same disc.

## RAF to buy new generation missiles in £2bn upgrade

BY MICHAEL EVANS, DEFENCE CORRESPONDENT

A NEW generation of "smart" missiles, capable of destroying targets from 185 miles away, is to be ordered for the RAF in a £2 billion upgrade before the next election. A decision on two of the new systems, a tank-busting weapon and a long-range cruise missile, is likely by July. Final bids for an advanced air-to-air missile are due by June, with an order expected early next year. For

the first time, an Israeli missile system, called Popeye, is being considered for a contract, worth £650 million. The three new missile systems will dramatically improve RAF air crews' chances of surviving bombing missions because they will be able to launch the weapons from a safe "stand-off" range. The introduction of the new type of missiles is a direct result of the lessons learned

from the Gulf War which highlighted the effectiveness of US cruise missiles. The most fiercely contested bid will be for a conventional-armed stand-off missile (Casom), which will give the RAF the capability to hit a hardened target with a penetrating explosive warhead, launched from 185 miles. The MOD is studying seven types of air-launched cruise missile, to match the Royal Navy's purchase of the US Tomahawk weapon. British Aerospace, which has teamed up with Matra of France, has bid with a missile called Storm Shadow, based on Matra's existing Apache. GEC Marconi Dynamics is offering a weapon called Pegasus and two of the American systems are Hughes' Airhawk and McDonnell Douglas's Grand Slam.

**TWO CROSSWORD**  
No 738  
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8 Quirk (6)  
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11 Nimble, neat (4)  
13 Fix (computer program) (5)  
15 Shout (angrily, tearfully) (4)  
17 Wholehearted (3-3)  
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6 Every two years (8)  
11 Waller —, *Listeners* poet (2,2,4)  
12 Approx 13x17 in. sheet (8)  
13 Active during daylight (7)  
14 Against the current (7)  
15 Upper half of dress (6)  
16 Twigs woven into egg baskets (6)

- SOLUTION TO NO 737**  
ACROSS: 1 Play back 5 Help 8 Kukri 9 Pillion 11 Low 12 Go to earth 13 Top dog 15 Yes-man 18 Bamboozle 19 Law 20 Smoker 21 Tibia 22 Lost 23 Estrange  
DOWN: 1 Pilelet 2 Askew 3 Bring to book 4 Capote 6 Epigram 7 Finch 10 Lie detector 14 Pompos 16 New Wave 17 Azores 18 Basil 19 Laban

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## Barclays to cut 1,000 jobs

BARCLAYS BANK is expected to launch a new voluntary redundancy scheme today with the aim of cutting up to 1,000 jobs at its branches (Sarah Cunningham writes). The bank is looking for people to leave voluntarily to end a surplus of managerial and clerical jobs. A similar scheme for branch staff last year was oversubscribed. The latest move will come just a week after Barclays told 500 staff in 13 regional offices that their jobs would be going. In that case it said it was looking at redeployment, voluntary redundancy and, possibly, some compulsory redundancies.

## US victory for Lloyd's

BY CHRISTINE BUCKLEY AND SARAH BAGNALL  
LLOYD'S OF LONDON has gained a breathing space in the United States to stave off the blockade of payment of a huge amount of funds to policyholders. A standstill agreement in Louisiana marks the first victory by the insurance market against action by several US regulatory authorities seeking to stall payment from US names. They argue that Lloyd's fraudulently sold securities in its insurance syndicates. There are about 2,700 US names facing losses estimated at about \$2 billion. Lloyd's has secured the agreement of the authorities in Louisiana until its reconstruction and renewal programme is agreed — or not — in the summer. Action against its operations could still be made after that date. The Department of Trade and Industry is ready to appoint insolvency practitioners if the £2.8 billion settlement offer made to names is not accepted. The department, which is also charged with licensing Equitas, the reinsurance company being formed to take on the risks of policies written in 1992 and earlier, has a contingency scheme ready should the settlement not be approved and Lloyd's of London is adjudged insolvent. **'Must win' gamble, page 46**

## Mackay expected to go as Inchcape profits slump

BY PHILIP PANGALOS  
INCHCAPE, the beleaguered motors-to-services group, is today expected to accompany a slump in full-year profits with news that Charles Mackay will step down as the company's chief executive. His departure is thought to be part of a shake-up instigated by Sir Colin Marshall, the new non-executive chairman. Mr Mackay has served on Inchcape's board for ten years and became chief executive in 1991. He is on a two-year contract worth £380,000 per annum, and will be entitled to nearly £800,000 severance pay. It is understood that Philip Cushing, managing director, will today be confirmed as Mr Mackay's successor. Sir Colin is also expected to announce details of future strategy. This will probably include more details about the float of



Mackay: two-year contract

## Leamington strikes it rich

BY SARAH CUNNINGHAM  
ROYAL Leamington Spa is Britain's most profitable town, according to a survey out today. Grimsby, which came first last year, has plummeted to 63rd place. In Leamington, all but 4 per cent of businesses made a profit. The town came out of nowhere to take the top place; it did not figure in the survey last year because it had fewer than 50 large firms, the minimum needed for inclusion. Sadly for Grimsby, while last year 89.5 per cent of its top companies made a profit, this year the percentage was down

helped. There is no secret to its success, Mr Mellor said. "Leamington has a good blend of industry and commerce. It has the Midlands to its north and the M40 connecting it to the south." Other towns to do well in the survey were Grays, Ilford, Kidderminster, Chester and Huddersfield. In all of them, more than nine out of ten companies made a profit. The most profitable region was Northern Ireland, while Dyfed was the best county. **Companies, page 43**

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The Times on 25/3/96

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The Times on 25/3/96